
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CITIES AND CHANGE

THREE DECADES OF POST-SOCIALIST TRANSITION

MAY 17-18, 2019



urban
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lab

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THREE DECADES OF POST-SOCIALIST TRANSITION

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CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



TECHNISCHE
UNIVERSITÄT
DARMSTADT

WELCOME NOTE

Welcome to the international conference “Cities and Change: Three Decades of Post-socialist Transition”

With 2019 marking three decades since the fall of the Berlin Wall (1989-2019) and the collapse of state-socialism in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), the team at the “Urban Morphosis Lab” research group decided to utilize this unique opportunity to reflect and discuss on the ways in which the processes and outcomes of post-socialist transition have impacted the built environment of the CEE cities. That thought led us to organise the inaugural International Conference on Cities and Change, with the focus being on topics related to restructuring of planning and design frameworks, infrastructure, architecture, and urban space in CEE context. After receiving more than 125 abstracts from across Europe, we are delighted to bring together leading academics, researchers and practitioners in fifteen sessions to discuss the major factors that guided this process, such as—the shift to neoliberal system of urban governance and planning; strategic and innovative urban development approaches and practices for adapting to socio-political change; democratization of planning and design practices; privatization and commodification of urban spaces; globalization and diversification of urban culture; and transformation of urban memory, heritage and identity. Through these insights and debates, we are hoping to increase the diversity of geographic perspectives in research on urban transformation, bring forth the spatial dimensions of transitioning processes, and, finally, produce new empirical insights, theoretical concepts and analytical methods for better understanding the complexity of the processes of urban change in wider international contexts. Above all, we are looking forward to two days of inter- and transdisciplinary debates, inputs by the leading academics in the field, and plenty of opportunities for exchange and networking.

Thank you for your participation and contribution to the conference.

Organizing Committee

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Darmstadt is a city in the German state of Hessen, located in the southern part of the Frankfurt Metropolitan Region. As the former capital of a prosperous sovereign country, the Grand Duchy of Hesse, Darmstadt gained international prominence. This further grew with rapid industrialisation in the 19th century, as well as at the beginning of the 20th century, when Darmstadt became an important centre for the art movement of Jugendstil, the German variant of Art Nouveau. However, during the Second World War, over three quarters of the inner city was destroyed, leading to a comprehensive reconstruction and renovation period afterwards. Nonetheless, the city played host to numerous technology companies, research institutes, the ESOC (European Space Operations Centre) and GSI (Centre for Heavy Ion Research), leading it to be officially promoted as the "City of Science" since 1997.

The conference takes place in Technische Universität Darmstadt, which is one of the leading universities of technology in Germany. The sessions will be held on its city centre campus (Campus Stadtmitte), offering plenty of opportunities to explore the city centre. The main conference venue will be in the Maschinenhaus (the power plant building):

S1 | 05 Maschinenhaus
Magdalenenstraße 12
64289 Darmstadt

The Maschinenhaus was built in 1904 by the architect and professor of the former TH Darmstadt Georg Wickop and served until 2001 as a power plant of the Campus Stadtmitte. It was renovated and converted to the lecture hall building with seminar rooms by the K + H Architekten from Stuttgart. The reopening was celebrated in 2013.



From Frankfurt Airport:

By Bus

The easiest way to get to Darmstadt is through the Airliner Bus. It leaves from Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 every 30 minutes from 6:25 am to 7:14 pm, and up to every 45 minutes after that. The Airliner Bus costs from 8 to 11€. Tickets can be purchased directly from the bus driver when boarding the vehicle. The Airliner has multiple stops in Darmstadt, such as Hauptbahnhof (closest to the Maritim Hotel), Darmstadthof (closest to the Welcome Hotel) and the central one, Luisenplatz (closest one to the conference venue). For more information on the bus:

https://www.heagmobibus.de/sites/default/files/media/_Airliner_Faltblatt_2017_11_21web.pdf

By Taxi

Taxis are right in front of the exits of the terminals at Frankfurt airport. It can cost around 50 to 100€ the trip and the vehicle capacity varies from 4 to 7 passengers.

By Rental Car

Several rental car companies are available at the Frankfurt airport. You can find them at the Car Rental Centers in both terminals.

By Train

Frankfurt airport also has its own train station, Frankfurt Flughafen. The tickets can be purchased in the electronic vending machine right at the platform of the station. Several trains are available in the direction of Darmstadt Hauptbahnhof. To check the best train option for your schedule you can access the following link: <https://www.bahn.com/en/view/index.shtml>

From Frankfurt Hauptbahnhof:

To commute from Frankfurt Main Hauptbahnhof to Darmstadt there are two main options: the Airliner Bus, that also makes a stop in the main train station (see Airliner section above) or by train. There are trains running every half hour. The two main options you can take is the RB68 or the RE60, that takes around 20 minutes to reach Darmstadt Hbf. There are other options available such as IC and other regional trains. The tickets can also be purchased in the vending machines at the specific platforms or in the help booth. For more information: <https://www.bahn.com/en/view/index.shtml>

Getting to the Venue

Once you are in Darmstadt, reaching the venue is very easy since it's located in the Stadtmitte (city center) campus. The venue is walking distance from both Luisenplatz (city centre) and the Schloß, which are the two main central connection areas in Darmstadt. From Luisenplatz it takes around 15 minutes walk to the venue and from the Schloß, about 10 minutes walk. On the way to the venue you can see other campus buildings and the Herrngarten state park. From Hauptbahnhof, the venue can be reached by the H or F buses to the stop Alexanderstraße/TU and from there a short 5 min walk to the S1 | 05 Maschinenhaus building, or by taking the buses K, 672 or Tram 2 & 3 to the Schloß. It is also possible to reach the Schloß though a combination of trams, or trams and buses. For more information:

<https://www.rmv.de/c/en/fahrkarten/regeln/wichtige-tarifinformationen/zuschlagfahrkarte/>



Legend

- 1 Conference Venue
- 2 Luisenplatz / Bus and tram stations
- 3 Schloßplatz / Bus and tram stations

PLACES TO SEE

Darmstadt also offers interesting places to visit and explore. One of the main attractions of the city is the Wedding Tower (Der Turm). This hand-shaped tower was a wedding gift for the Grand Duke Ernst Ludwig and Princess Eleonore of Solms-Hohensolms-Lich in 1907. The tower can be seen from some parts of town and is located in the beautiful neighborhood of Mathildenhöhe. Next to it is St. Mary Magdalene Chapel, a Russian revival style church with golden domes dated from 1897-1899. The site also includes the Institut Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt for local artists, a café that becomes a beer garden during summer and a nice park. Mathildenhöhe neighborhood is also very pleasant to go for a walk. Der Turm is located at Alexandraweg 23, 64287 Darmstadt.

Another option to see in Darmstadt is the beautiful rose garden at the Rosenhöhe Park. The Rosenhöhe is a former vineyard that was turned into an English style landscape garden in the beginning of the 19th century. In the neighbouring area you can also find some modern and art nouveau houses and the Hofcafé at Rosenhöhe 64287 Darmstadt, in case you fancy a cup of coffee.

Equally interesting is the intriguing Waldspirale building near Martinsviertel neighborhood, or if in need of a nice walk or little hike: the Ludwigsturm (a 15 minutes walk from the 8 tram Marienhöhe stop) that provides a magnificent vista over the town of Darmstadt and the Rhineland below, as well as the Burg Frankenstein Castle, a possible inspiration for the famous Mary Shelley Frankenstein, which is one hour and a half walk from the last Eberstadt tram stop (tram line 8 or 7).



- 08:45-09:30 **Reception and registration** /room 24/
- 09:30-09:45 **Welcome address** /room 122/
Prof. Dr. Annette Rudolph-Cleff
Councilwoman Iris Behr, City of Darmstadt
Opening remarks
Dr. Nebojša Camprag, Dr. Mirjana Ristic Trograncic
- 09:45-10:45 **Inaugural lecture** /room 122/
Prof. Dr. Oleg Golubchikov
- 10:45-11:00 *Break*
- 11:00-12:40 **Parallel sessions I**
1. How Long Does The 'Post' Last? Spatial Dynamics in Post-Socialist Transition /room 122/
2A. Socialist Legacy—Emerging Heritage? /room 22/
3A. The Urban Morphology of Post Socialism /room 23/
- 12:40-13:40 *Lunch break* /room 24/
- 13:40-15:00 **Parallel sessions II**
2B. Socialist Legacy—Emerging Heritage? /room 22/
4A. Contested Functions of (Socialist) Architecture in Post-socialist Cities /room 122/
5A. 1989-2019 CEE Urban Transformation Revisited: City Visions, Self-made Transitions and Alternative Development Models /room 23/
- 15:00-15:15 *Coffee Break* /room 24/
Book promotion: Post-Socialist Urban Infrastructures /room 23/
- 15:15-17:05 **Parallel sessions III**
3B. The Urban Morphology of Post Socialism /room 23/
4B. Contested Functions of (Socialist) Architecture in Post-socialist Cities s /room 122/
6. Culture-led Urban Transformation and Tourism Potential in Post-socialist Europe and Beyond /room 22/
- 17:05-17:20 *Break*
- 17:20-18:20 **Closing lecture** /room 122/
Prof. Dr. Nina Gribat

NOTES

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary-ruled notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

- 09:00-09:45 **Registration** /room 24/
- 09:45-10:45 **Opening lecture** /room 122/
Prof. Dr. Kaliopa Dimitrovska Andrews
- 10:45-11:00 *Break*
- 11:00-12:40 **Parallel sessions IV**
5B. 1989-2019 CEE Urban Transformation Revisited: City Visions, Self-made Transitions and Alternative Development Model /room 23/
7. Contentious Mobility Governance: Mobility as an Entry Point to Understanding Urban Governance in Post-Soviet Cities /room 122/
8. Rural Areas in the Post-Socialist Context /room 22/
- 12:40-13:40 *Lunch break* /room 24/
- 13:40-15:00 **Parallel sessions V**
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11. Promises of Strategic Urban Planning /room 23/
- 15:00-15:15 *Coffee Break* /room 24/
Book promotion: Reinventing Eastern Europe: Imaginaries, Identities and Transformations /room 23/
- 15:15-16:15 **Closing lecture** /room 122/
Prof. Dr. Ludek Sýkora
- 16:15-16:30 *Break*
- 16:30-17:30 **Plenary session** /room 122/
- 17:30-18:30 **Closing remarks & summation** /room 122/
Prof. Dr. Sybille Frank
Farewell and outlook
Dr. Nebojša Camprag

INAUGURAL WORD

Prof. Dr. Annette Rudolph-Cleff
Faculty of Architecture
TU Darmstadt, Germany

Annette Rudolph-Cleff is professor, head of the Chair of Urban Design and Development and academic director of the MSc programme “International Cooperation in Urban Development—Mundus Urbano” at the Department of Architecture, Technische Universität Darmstadt. She is a registered architect and holds a PhD from the University of Karlsruhe, Germany, on housing policy and urban development. Dr. Rudolph-Cleff is involved in international research projects on urbanization and locality, semi centralized resource and recovery center for fast-growing urban areas. Dr. Rudolph-Cleff has also received many prestigious awards for her work on sustainable urban development, of which one was the Greentech Award in the category “Urbanization” (2015).



Urbanization of Transition: Cities as the Agency of Change

Lefebvre used to argue that late capitalism is characterized by a transition from industrialization to urbanization as the social 'episteme': to understand society one needs to understand its urbanity. In this address, I will argue that transition from socialism to capitalism in Eastern Europe has equally been this epistemic transition to urbanism. While post-socialist cities are often portrayed as merely a projection of larger societal processes, cities in many respects represent the agency of change themselves, providing new material and semiotics framework for the reorganization of society. Indeed, post-socialist urban space has been an intensive and oft-cruel battleground – over ideas, powers, social, economic, and political practices, identities, symbolism, understandings and meanings. It is through these urban experiences and struggles that transition has taken its specific narrative and disciplining power and produces new social relationships. I introduce the notion of "urbanisation of transition" to capture this centrality of the urban in the production of post-socialist society. I will also argue for the importance of proper 'worlding' post-socialist cities for a better understanding of the nature of global urbanization (and capitalism) more generally.

Moderation: Dr. Nebojša Camprag

Prof. Dr. Oleg Golubchikov
School of Geography and Planning
Cardiff University
Cardiff, UK

Oleg Golubchikov is Reader in Human Geography, with interests in urban political geography, critical and post-socialist studies, energy geography, and sustainable cities. His research particularly interrogates the relationships between spatial governance and urban transformations in the context of major contemporary societal 'projects' including post-socialist and post-carbon transitions. His current research projects and collaborations are in the UK, Europe, in the BRIC and ex-Soviet countries. His research also informs international policies; he has advised the United Nations on aspects of urban development, low-carbon cities, and sustainable housing.



Conflicting Urbanism(s): Post-socialist and Post-industrial Urban Transformations and Everyday Life

The case of Hoyerswerda, East Germany

After German Unity, towns and cities in East Germany underwent several processes of transformation, which were largely unforeseen at the time and which have changed the German discourse on urbanism. Due to the rapid transition of the socio-political system, post-socialist and post-industrial urban change went hand-in-hand even though some efforts were undertaken to facilitate a smooth economic transition process after Unity. To examine the urban effects of these transformations more closely, this keynote lecture focuses on the case of Hoyerswerda, the former second socialist model city of the GDR. Developed to house the workers of the rapidly expanding energy centre, the town's population grew ten-fold in just a few decades. The new town, constructed according to the principles of GDR's socialist urbanism, had to be expanded several times. The design of the model city had been both, critiqued and celebrated, from early on, yet it was highly popular amongst its inhabitants. After German Unity, a process of instant re- and devaluation of urban forms and subjectivities associated with socialism and with capitalism can be observed, which was paralleled by economic decline and population loss – a combination that was later termed “urban shrinkage”. Conflicting ideas about Hoyerswerda's future developed, which are closely connected to different understandings of the various transformation processes. These are to a certain degree exemplary for post-socialist and post-industrial urban transformations in many other towns and cities in East Germany until today.

Moderation: Dr. Anshika Suri

Prof. Dr. Nina Gribat
Faculty of Architecture
TU Darmstadt, Germany

Nina Gribat is Professor of Design and Urbanism at the Technische Universität Darmstadt. Her work focuses on the study of urban transformation processes. In particular, she is interested in the processes of shaping new urban futures in the context of demographic and structural urban changes and the conflicts that arise in this context. In addition, her research involves historical and contemporary reform processes in vocational and educational practice in architecture and urban planning. She has published in various journals and textbooks, and is part of the editorial collective of the open-access journal “Sub\Urban. Zeitschrift für kritische Stadtforschung”.



Mastering the Post-socialist City: Is Urban Planning History?

The lecture reviews the impact of the pressures of globalisation, the expansion pressures of the European Union (EU), and general market competition, on the urban planning and transformation of land use patterns and physical structure in post socialist cities in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), emphasizing the characteristics of urban regeneration of particular city's areas of Ljubljana such as city centre, inner city and outer city. The art of restructuring and rebuilding cities is still high on the agenda of the professional debate, searching for methods and concepts that could lead to better and sustainable cities. Especially critical in the current debate are the issues of globalisation and cross-national transference of ideas as well as the methods of dealing effectively and appropriately with issues of local, regional and national identities. In the case of Ljubljana, the restructuring of the city with a respect for cultural identity and continuity is discussed. This aspect is among the most important precondition for achieving a distinctive image, economic strength and vitality of post socialist and/or post-industrial city.

Moderation: Prof. Dr. Lauren Ugur

Prof. Dr. Kaliopa Dimitrovska Andrews
European Faculty of Law
Ljubljana, Slovenia

Kaliopa Dimitrovska Andrews is Associate Professor of Urban Planning at the University of Ljubljana and the New University, Slovenia and visiting professor at the University of Zagreb, Croatia. Her research experience and interest are in the theoretical and empirical studies of urbanization processes, urban and regional planning, urban design methodology, city marketing, and housing. Dr. Dimitrovska Andrews has extensive planning experience in Slovenia and Eastern European Countries including positions as a team leader and project coordinator. She has won several architectural and urban design competitions as author and co-author and published numerous articles, publications and conference presentations. She was a member of the Council of the International Federation of Housing and Planning and Member of the Committee for Urban Planning, advisory body to the City Council of Ljubljana.



Half-Life Cities: Capitalist Pasts and Socialist Futures

In 1990, Ralf Dahrendorf in his “Reflections on the revolution in Europe” envisaged that sixty years are barely enough to lay social foundations of new society. Three decades since the Great 1989 we are half-life through the anticipated change. Where we are now in 2019? This presentation argues that “Transformation” is not finished project yet. While the social practices of firms, households, and governments under the conditions of expanding neoliberal global capitalism brought former socialist countries and their cities into the global mainstream, the ever-present legacies of communism are deeply embodied in everyday urban life. Struggling through the second round of transition, the urban development paths are shaped by volatile equilibristic of discursive, policy and financial games. Critical reflections of three decades of post-socialist urban transformations help to illuminate alternative development perspectives on cities in Central and Eastern Europe.

Moderation: Dr. Mirjana Ristic Trograncic

Prof. Dr. Ludek Sýkora
Charles University
Prague, Czech Republic

Ludek Sýkora is Professor at the Department of Social Geography and Regional Development at the Charles University in Prague. His research work focuses on urban change in postsocialist cities, impacts of globalization on urban transformations, processes of metropolitan change such as suburbanization, neighborhood changes such as gentrification, processes and localities of segregation, inter-cultural interaction in immigrant neighborhoods, metropolisation and polycentric development in settlement systems, small and medium sized towns, urban real estate development, national and municipal housing and housing policy, urban policies and urban planning and the role of public sector, private actors and citizens and social movements in urban development.



CLOSING WORD

Prof. Dr. Sybille Frank
Institute for Sociology
TU Darmstadt, Germany

Sybille Frank is a Professor for Urban Sociology and Sociology of Space at the Institute for Sociology, Technical University Darmstadt. Sybille has held positions as Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Research Focus 'Intrinsic Logic of Cities', Technical University Darmstadt (2008-11), as Acting Professor at Goethe University Frankfurt (2011-12) and as Assistant Professor at Technische Universität Berlin (2012-16). In 2016, Sybille was La Sapienza Visiting Professor for Research Activities at Università di Roma La Sapienza, and City of Vienna Visiting Professor for Urban Culture and Public Space. Her work focuses on urban sociology, on the sociology of space and place, and on tourism and heritage studies.



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LIST OF SESSIONS

1

How Long Does The 'Post' Last? Spatial Dynamics in Post-Socialist Transition

2A/B

Socialist Legacy—Emerging Heritage?

3A/B

The Urban Morphology of Post Socialism

4A/B

Contested Functions of (Socialist) Architecture in Post-socialist Cities

5A/B

1989-2019 CEE Urban Transformation Revisited: City Visions, Self-made Transitions and Alternative Development Models

6

Culture-led Urban Transformation and Tourism Potential in Post-socialist Europe and Beyond

7

Contentious Mobility Governance: Mobility as an Entry Point to Understanding Urban Governance in Post-Soviet Cities

8

Rural Areas in the Post-Socialist Context

9

New Patterns of Land Appropriation in Post-socialist Space

10

Innovating the Post-socialist City: Challenging Legacy. Emerging Fears?

11

Promises of Strategic Urban Planning

How Long Does The 'Post' Last? Spatial Dynamics in Post-Socialist Transition

How long does the post last? In order to answer this question, we should also investigate when has the post begun? Post is from today's perspective regarded as homogeneous process, but the aim of this introductory session would be to question this opinion having in mind specific historical and cultural context of various Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) countries that are nowadays regarded as post-socialist. Therefore, having in mind different social, cultural and historical circumstances of various countries, territories and cities that are nowadays called post-socialist, this session should examine special local contexts that preceded the post period. This session welcomes diverse perspectives of spatial dynamics explored with special emphasis on the processes of morphogenesis. Through examination of these processes running on different spatial levels, studies within this session should finally shed a new light on the beginning of transitional spatial dynamics and try to predict when or if the post will ever be finished.

SESSION CHAIRS

Milica Miloevic

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Faculty of Architecture, University of Belgrade, Serbia

Dr. Milica Miloevic is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Urbanism. She has co-authored several competition works, urban projects, urban plans and exhibitions. As a part of scholarship she was involved in scientific projects organized by the Faculty of Architecture and Ministry of Education, Science and Technological development of Republic of Serbia.

Mladen Pešić

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Faculty of Architecture, University of Belgrade, Serbia

Dr. Mladen Pešić is a teaching assistant. His research is generally focused on visual display, spatial representation and memory. As a part of scholarship he was involved in scientific projects organized by Faculty of Architecture and Ministry of Education, Science and Technological development of Republic of Serbia.

The lost past: the construction of despair in the Tajik capital

Dr. Malika Bahovadinova, Oriental Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences

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Abstract

The proposed paper investigates the relationship between coloniality, history and modernity in present-day Tajikistan. It will look at the conflict that has arisen during the “reimagining” of Tajikistan’s capital, Dushanbe, during its recent construction boom. It will attempt to analyze how urban construction, with spatial and temporally distant spaces from the Soviet past, allows for the articulation of divergent versions of modernity. By returning to its Tajik “roots” through a process of self-orientalization and historical reconstructions, the modern government of Tajikistan has made the Soviet past into something alien and imposed from the outside. In this context, the construction of aesthetically unpleasant, but culturally productive blocks of tall buildings allows the state to subvert the Soviet past and articulate a new vision of a modern and advanced capital. Negotiation with this vision and resistance from city dwellers against the erasure of their homes and the Soviet past provide a valuable field of study in which to engage with concepts of coloniality and Soviet history. Using preliminary ethnographic research conducted in Tajikistan in 2017, the paper will argue for a politics of despair which provides space for citizens to participate in politics, albeit unwillingly.

Keywords

colonialism, memory, modernity, city-redevelopment, the politics of civil protest

Super-gentrification in a post-socialist state on the example of Poland

Dr. Lukasz Drozda, University of Warsaw
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Abstract

The multidimensional process of gentrification is one of the most commonly occurring processes of contemporary urban transformations. Its most advanced stage is the so-called "super-gentrification," a situation in which wealthy residents of the neighborhood are replaced by even wealthier residents. This process is particularly clear in the most affluent cities in Western Europe and North America. Gentrification there seems really advanced, and it has been observed and described for at least several decades. On the contrary, with the case of states from the former bloc of real socialism, the manifestations of gentrification started to become visible only after 1989 or even later. In their case, gentrification is less advanced in its form and affects many spaces only point-wise. However, the aim of the paper is to describe the presence of the super-gentrification process of Poland in relation to cold-war-modernist housing estates, the process of 'wild' property restitution, and its manifestation in some rural areas. Data on the real estate market and field research are used for this purpose. The author concludes that super-gentrification is already a tangible process in the region of Central and Eastern Europe, which shows a much greater advancement and social severity of this process of transforming urban space in relation to the vast majority of research analyzing the level of gentrification advancement in the CEE region. The occurrence of super-gentrification also suggests the possibility of indicating a significant caesura or even ending the socio-economic transformation of some post-socialist countries.

Keywords

gentrification, super-gentrification, CEE, Poland, dependent market economies

Transition and control: urban redevelopment of new Belgrade's blocks 17 and 18

Dr. Nikolina Bobic, University of Plymouth
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Abstract

This paper will address the implications of the 'transitional' tag by analysing the relationship between balkanization and redevelopment of Belgrade in the aftermath of the 1990s Yugoslav dissolution which includes NATO's 1999 targeting. The stated agenda will specifically be addressed by mapping the historical shifts in the urban development of New Belgrade's Blocks 17-18 and the way in which this redevelopment showcases that 'transition' has been an opportunity to reduce the depth and complexity of history. The flattening of complexity brings into being matters to do with post-socialist identity whereby the symbolic and pragmatic redevelopment in the Western Balkan zone has also been used for purposes of classifying violence in the name of those who may speak, that is, those who need to remain silent. Remaking a city and country, rebuilding a nation through the instatement of 1990s economic and travel sanctions as well as destruction and imposition of a transitional identity is less reminiscent of the 'birth' of a nation and more akin to violence and colonialism. Historical patterns indicate that colonial powers firstly balkanize, then politically and socioeconomically absorb the newly fragmented zones for purposes of control. In terms of New Belgrade and Serbia, the pretext of transition is used as a means to implement urban militarisation and continuous policing and control in less detectable, yet nonetheless disciplinary ways. These networks of control will be critically analysed through the thinking of Gilles Deleuze and Paul Virilio.

Keywords

transition, control, urban militarisation, colonialism, balkanisation

Urban transformation in post-socialist cities of former Yugoslavia – case study of Ljubljana, Slovenia

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Abstract

Drawing on the experience of Ljubljana, the capital and the largest city of Slovenia, the research will analyze the effects of the above-mentioned policies to highlight the (un)responsiveness of local governments in addressing the topics such as sustainable growth, affordable housing, and privatization of public space. Based on an inductive research approach, the study will utilize comparative qualitative research to examine the socio-spatial patterns within the context of the analyzed city. The research methods will include analysis of archival data and semi-structured interviews to understand the historical background of the issue and to reveal their underlying motivations.

A theory will then be generated through systematic analysis of data and organized to extract the emerging themes. These will revolve around contemporary issues of local government often internalizing the entrepreneurial logic of urban management, leading to touristification of the city center, exploding prices of apartments and rents, and festivalization of public space. On the other hand, it will focus on the emergence of alternative models of urban development trying to introduce innovative urban practices in the city, and mitigate the negative effects of conflicting urban realities.

Keywords

post-socialist cities, former Yugoslavia, urban transformation, Ljubljana, entrepreneurial city

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SESSION CHAIRS

Mirjana Ristic Trograncic

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Institute for Sociology, TU Darmstadt, Germany

Dr. Mirjana Ristic Trograncic is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at the Technical University Berlin. Her PhD thesis, which explored architectural and urban dimensions of inter-ethnic conflict in Sarajevo, won John Grice Award for Excellence in a PhD Thesis in Architecture at the University of Melbourne in 2012. Her postdoctoral research project focuses on the urban reconstruction of the former Cold War borderland between East and West Berlin.

Nebojša Camprag

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Faculty of Architecture, TU Darmstadt, Germany

Dr.-Ing. Nebojša Camprag is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow based at the Faculty of Architecture, Technical University Darmstadt. His doctoral dissertation, awarded in 2014 as the best dissertation at the Faculty of Architecture, deals with the issues of identity and sense of place in contemporary cities, as a challenge that results from a range of global, economy-driven changes that cities are facing today. His current research interest is in the framework of interaction between globalization and built environment on the level of international comparison.

Anshika Suri

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Faculty of Architecture, TU Darmstadt, Germany

Dr. Anshika Suri is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow based at the Faculty of Architecture, Technical University Darmstadt. Her research interest lies in analysing urban infrastructures through a feminist perspective. Her doctoral dissertation was in line with understanding the urban sanitation challenge being faced by women in informal settlements in the cities of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Nairobi, Kenya. Her current research interests focus on intersectional analyses investigating the discourse within feminist urban planning and retrogressive metamorphosis in gender-inclusive urban planning.

Contemporary art and socialist heritage debate in post-socialist Bulgaria

MSc. Ina Belcheva, University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
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Abstract

Bulgarian debate on the presence in the public space of monuments from the socialist period had a slow start. After the political changes from November 1989, the major concern seemed to be the creation of new alternatives of political ruling of the country; the transformation of the urban space was not a priority. The falling of monuments of ideological figures happened without a public discussion and not in the heat of mass protests as it was the case of many countries in the former Eastern Bloc. When the real debate started in the summer of 1990, concerning the Mausoleum of Georgi Dimitrov and the Monuments of the Soviet Army, it was quickly eclipsed by more urging economic and social issues. The most consistent reaction was observed among museum professionals and contemporary artists. The first started a new reflection on their collections and exhibitions almost immediately after the Change. Contemporary artists, on the other side, were the quickest to interrogate the aesthetics of the public space and the presence of monuments referencing an ideology from the past. They have questioned, reexamined and appropriated several key socialist monuments or memory sites in their works, and it is the conflict of memories and aesthetics, as well as the need for reconciliation, that transpire from their art. This paper strives to reveal the important role contemporary art plays in the developing of the perception of socialist monuments as heritage in Bulgaria, as well as its part in the memory and aesthetics debate on public space. Through the case studies of the Mausoleum of Georgi Dimitrov (1949-1999) and the Monument 1300 Years Bulgaria in Sofia (1981-2017), we put an accent on the importance aesthetic arguments have on the preservation of socialist heritage today.

Keywords

contemporary art, heritage, socialism, monuments, public space

Fragmentation of social experiences: everyday encounters with the memorial architecture of socialist Yugoslavia

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Abstract

"A transformation of mentalities (a transformation of hearts and minds)" which are part of the heritage of the old regimes, was one of the goals of transition listed in Resolution 1096, adopted by the European Council in 1996. It invited governments to "dismantle the heritage of former communist totalitarian systems." The act of displacing European memory culture from the discourse of antifascism to the discourse of antitotalitarianism has fundamentally shrunk space for dialogue in the Yugoslav socialist experience. With international resolutions in their hands, new political elites in post-Yugoslav countries were equipped with a powerful rhetorical tool to silence productive memories of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and suppress alternatives to the present transitional condition. Departing from the ethnographic work done in two cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Mostar and Bihać), I aim to elaborate on some of the dimensions frequently overlooked. I will juxtapose the perspectives of everyday people with present-day public discourses surrounding the two sites: Partizan Memorial Cemetery in Mostar (built in 1965) and Garavice Memorial Park in Bihać (built in 1981). Both monuments were designed by prominent Yugoslav architect Bogdan Bogdanović, commemorating people who were killed during the Second World War. I draw special attention to the reflections and stories that were gathered through a series of conversations and meetings with citizens of Mostar, compiled in the book "Mostar's Hurqualya: The (Un)forgotten City." It seeks to challenge public framing of Bogdanović's memorial work as an unwanted relict of the past system in a "divided city." In what follows, I argue for a more nuanced view that would acknowledge complexities of each particular site and highlight the agency of local communities in the process of self-discovering and defining the legacy of Yugoslav memorial architecture.

Keywords

memorial architecture, everyday encounters, Bogdan Bogdanovic, Mostar, Bihac

Representations of socialist architecture in Hungary

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Abstract

The role of philosophy in both parts of the Socialist building process has become dominant at two points in Hungary. The first is the selection of the region and culture-specific historical style in Socialist Realism. The second aspect emerged after the Khrushchevian architectural turn, the foundations that led to Soviet Modern. [1] The application of the Socialist Realist motto, "socialist by content, national by form," caused a great controversy among architects, who originally preferred modernist architectural aesthetics and methods. This problem is related to the issue of the language and the meaning of architecture. This was apparent and central in the so-called "Great Architectural Debate" in Hungary in 1951, in which it was not the architects who decided between competing views, but the philosopher George Lukacs. He cast his vote on the classicist way of architectural aesthetical thinking. [2] As in every eastern Central-European state including Hungary, the Socialist Realist building method (not a style but a method) was terminated by the Khrushchevian turn in 1954. Although form language changed from Socialist Realism to Soviet Modern, the ideological content remained the same in building processes. The role of philosophy in architecture became dominant at this point. This was a major problem of the era because the reason for shifting from the historical to a modern form language under the same ideological and political power had to be explained. I will present the two turning points that defined Hungarian architecture under the Socialist influence, from the philosophical point of view. First I examine the Great Architectural Debate, especially the activity of architects (Imre Perényi, Máté Major) and the effect of philosophy (George Lukacs). Second I emphasise the philosophical ground for changing the architectural form language under the same ideological content.

Keywords

socialist realism, socialist modernism, architectural debate, Eastern Central-Europe, Hungary

Intangible, fetishized & constructed new contexts for staging the socialist heritage

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Abstract

Standing still at the geographically stable, but territorially challenged ex-socialist playground, observing the information on an overall world-wide promotion of Ex-Yugoslavia (Ex-Yu) heritage, it is difficult to determine the quality of diverse contexts that envelope those activities. The moment when Martino Stierli organizes the biggest exhibition of Yugoslav architecture in MoMA is the same one in which schools of architecture outside of Ex-Yu borders already researched and taught Yugoslavian contexts and heritage. It is the same moment when we, the Ex-Yu Republics, are joining the play through micro-actions. At the intersection of deeply nostalgic and melancholic feelings on one side and nationalistic sweeping streams on the other, the ex-socialist countries in Eastern Europe may conclude that the time has come to discuss the heritage that socialism and communism have left behind. Accepting the label of 'negligence' attached to the countries that did nothing, or very little, to protect or promote the heritage of this era in the last decades, today they finally feel invited to reclaim at least what is left of it. Staging heritage on exhibition, festival, or in theatre, highlights the diversity of contexts that one could define as potentially fruitful platforms for heritage placement. The paper explores several types of projects that represent new possible contexts for staging Yugoslav architectural heritage - a theatre performance "Future Read in Concrete and Stone (TkH)," the curatorial concept for the exhibition "Toward a Concrete Utopia: Architecture in Yugoslavia, 1948-1980" (MoMA), and a three-month long, process-based exhibition project for the Venice Architecture Biennale 2014, "Re:Load." Focusing on distinct formats of these projects, as well as on the (re)interpreted, inscribed, or imagined qualities that Yugoslav architecture generates or reflects, the paper will introduce the contextual paradigms of the intangible, fetishized and constructed.

Keywords

ex-Yugoslav architecture, modernist heritage, performance, exhibition, contexts

The past as a rotting place. Active negligence and wasted legacies after socialism

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Abstract

1991; many things and life stories went to oblivion, unworthy of maintenance and recollection, re-contextualised as improper and as living in another time. Yet what happens to the legacies that did not find any continuation, those which were 'wasted'? This paper addresses questions about the ordering and continuity of post-socialist societies by examining the relationships between material disrepair and the state. Ethnographically, it pays attention to the working effects of disrepair in Estonia, and how they not only support state legibility (Scott 1998; Chu 2014), but also condition broader political sensibilities (Ranciere 2006). Also it studies the way the vanquishing over the Soviet world happened on a different time scale than the decay of its legacy, demonstrating how physical and cultural wasting are rarely synchronised. Buildings, infrastructures and the built environment are a principle materialisation, enacting social theories, concretising values, solidifying memory representations, and distributing orders of worth (Humphrey 2005). Hence, if there is ideology in the built environment, we might also conclude that the negligence of the inherited is also a form of politics, a sort of 'Damnatio Memoriae'. Yet wasted legacies coexist with us in a state of potentiality, showing a tendency to return, claiming for recognition of their significance, and entailing particular physical dynamics too. For instance, a new generation that does not remember the socialist time and is particularly open to global influences has grown up in Estonia. The ethnography makes evident that the impact of the Soviet memory in people's conventional values is losing its effective power in the course of generational change, thereby transforming the conditions for gaining knowledge about the socialist past.

Keywords

emerging heritage, wasted legacies, preserve disrepair, post-socialisms, generational change, material culture

Ideology, power and socialist urban legacy in Macedonia: a reflection on the project Skopje 2014

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Abstract

This paper proposal explores the urban project Skopje 2014 and its relationship to the socialist urban legacy – how the anti-communist narrative impacts the urban design politics in Macedonia and how the national ideology tends to neutralize the architectural and symbolic meaning of Skopje's (socialist) architectural legacy. Over the course of five years (2010-2015), the former conservative government in Macedonia invested a great deal of financial and symbolic resources in altering the central urban area of the Macedonian capital. Scholars and researchers are now reporting on the ethno-nationalist messages disseminated in Skopje's central area. Concepts such as geopolitics, identity, and neoliberalism dominate the debates of this urban undertaking. Despite the growing literature, the question of how power and ideology affected the implementation of Skopje 2014 has been largely sidestepped in the scholarship. In this proposal, I shall discuss ideological and urban techniques through which the former government neutralized both the urban and symbolic meaning of the so called “communist” buildings. I shall argue that instead of “reconstructing” national identity, the project Skopje 2014 tends to reaffirm foremost the dominant power positions of the Macedonian political right and its central ideological norms and narratives. Paying closer empirical attention to the question of how both authoritarian power and ideological content affect urban spaces, this study aims to contribute to the theoretical discussion in the fields of nationalism, non-democratic regimes and urban design politics. It suggests that instead of approaching nationalism as an inherently conflictual concept, it would be theoretically more productive to assess when, how, and why it becomes a belligerent political ideology. The proposal is a part of my dissertation that looks on Skopje 2014 through several methodological angles: contextualization, interviews, semiotics, and content analysis.

Keywords

Skopje 2014, nationalism, power, authoritarianism, architecture

Loss of heritage, revival of memory

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Abstract

After the collapse of the USSR, a new economic and political system was established in the Commonwealth States, including in Armenia. These changes had an impact on urban planning and were based on controversial and largely disputed ideological bases. One of the best examples of such controversial developments is the city of Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, where the retrospective view on the “glorious past” of the country became the ideological basis of its newly developing urban fabric. This retrospective approach resulted in the reconstruction of new urban memory on the basis of the revived and revised phantoms of the older urban fabric. This included, for example, ubiquitous renaming of streets (the majority of street names of Soviet origin gave a way to the names of national heroes), partial demolition of Communist monuments and, and reconstruction of new national narratives in architecture. The new city identity was being formed by simultaneous construction of the new urban fabric and demolition of the historical, whereas the initial intention was to complete the historical image of Yerevan. The reason of such an overall retrospective attitude to the urban development was conditioned by the controversial and complex perception of one's own past and history. Yerevan is a modern city built mainly in the 20th century during a period when the core architecture was being developed to revive traditional architecture. Even after the end of Communist era, the city continued following that ideology, attempting to fulfill the gaps of urban memory. The proposed paper intends to examine the controversial urban development of the city of Yerevan in the context of the political changes which took place in the post-independence period. We will examine how history is being interpreted in the formation of the contemporary urban fabric of the city, attempting to establish it as the symbol of the nation's “glorious past,” processes which were accompanied by ubiquitous demolition of its historical architectural heritage.

Keywords

urban change, memory revival, loss of heritage

Inherited housing - 30 years of communal apartments life after Socialism (the case of Kyiv's Sotsgorod)

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Abstract

Among the inherited types of housing from the Soviet era in many post-socialist cities, there is specific type of social housing - communal apartments (or "kommunalki") – shared housing for several families. The emergence of this type of housing was intended to solve the traditionally sharp "kvartirniy vopros" (housing issue) and to provide a substantially larger number of people with housing. The practice of creating communal apartments lasted for several decades. They arose in different types of Soviet housing - both Stalinki and Khrushchevki, in the inner cities and outside of them – in areas where new socialist cities were constructed. Although, even in the Soviet period, communal apartments were considered to be temporary housing, it is paradoxical that even today, after significant changes of housing market and mass housing construction, communal apartments still exist.

This paper reveals the life of communal apartments as a type of housing, which is still preserved in the socialist city of Kyiv (Sotsgorod) - the area of mass residential construction in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The study clarifies how fast kommunalki disappear from the structure of housing in the Kyiv Socialist city, observes those areas where they are fragmentarily preserved, and factors influencing it. In addition, the life of several communal apartments, preserved until today, is reflected. This paper is intended to answer the question - why, despite a rather long period of new economic relations and existence of the housing market, when there is an indirect pushing out of this type of housing, communal apartments are still represented in Kyiv? In addition, this paper reveals the personal, social, and economic motives of the kommunalki owners on the one hand and housing policy from the other. The research is based on archival material, statistical data and in-depth interviews with owners of communal apartments.

Keywords

communal apartments, kommunalki, housing, socialist city

The possibility for prefabrication: Institute for Testing Materials Serbia IMS

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Abstract

Institute for Testing Materials Serbia was formed soon after Yugoslavian break with USSR in 1948 marking country's shift toward rapid industrialisation. In this process use of manual building techniques was in the stage of transition toward application of equipment mainly imported through contracts on war reparation. As argued by Cornelius Castoriadis in his article on Yugoslavian bureaucracy from 1950, it was by abroad equipment once installed and further kept in good repair, replaced, and expanded that industrialisation of Yugoslavia assured dependence from a qualitative point of view from the West. After retirement from ETH, one of the most prominent engineers of the generation Mirko Roš will return to his country of origin to constitute a new institution. After importing Swiss equipment the institute will gain its initial organisation. In this process prefabrication itself became the object of ultimate expertise involving variety of actors. Deliberately designed as an 'open prefabricated system', IMS enabled primary construction to be completed in situ by manual techniques both as to work compatibility with secondary systems from variety of industrial catalogs. Envisioned to adjust to the different qualifications of construction labor with extreme savings in concrete and steel and being the first to introduce prefabrication at the actual construction site, the IMS system soon become one of the leading Yugoslav export products. From its initial application in New Belgrade, the IMS final product – a flexible flat – generated more than 60 000 housing units in Yugoslavia. Moreover, it domesticated within the European, African, Asian and South American market with incomes big enough to assure autonomy to the house of its origin. Tracing the development of institute from its constitution and import of machinery toward technical characteristics of the system and its application in housing in Yugoslavia and abroad (Cuba) the paper will try to point to the possibility of experimentally lead prefabrication as one of potential legacies of socialist architecture.

Keywords

institute, prefabrication, Yugoslavia

What meaning for modernity? Politics of socialist heritage in Croatia

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Abstract

A visibility of Yugoslavia's architectural heritage has over the last 30 years been built within spaces of representation which have appeared fragmented across successor countries and rather vaguely situated within their institutional frameworks. Owing to these spaces of representation, a wide range of various aspects of Yugoslav urbanization from different epistemological perspectives have been pushed into the global narrative of modernity. However, little is known about how exactly these spaces of representation have been instituted during and after the breakup of Yugoslavia and what kind of meaning and aesthetics they inscribe into socialist heritage. In order to critically reflect on these spaces, this contribution relates the curatorial and activist praxis that discursively evokes and recreates socialist modernity to contemporary processes of capitalist urbanization. The hypothesis of this contribution is that such a praxis has a very territorial dimension as it promotes a particular aesthetic of urbanization. While inscribing into the representations of socialist heritage celebrated notions of localized differences and informality of everyday life, they override the heritage of macroeconomic and spatial master-planning of territory. Based on qualitative content analysis and ethnographic methods of participatory observation and interviews, the activist and curatorial praxis in Croatia will be scrutinized concerning both the contents and funding, to understand how it inscribes a particular perspective on the political and professional role of planning and design professionals, both in socialist heritage and the city politics. The two key moments are recognized in the praxis: (1) promoting socialist modernity as an emancipatory project while smoothing out ambiguities regarding colonial dimensions of the geopolitics of inequality, thus contributing to (2) the dissolution of the state-controlled planning framework in favour of a patchwork of institutions, institutionalized NGOs, and (global) market players.

Keywords

modernity, planning, territory, representation

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Post socialist or global capitalist? Recent urban form in Belgrade and Krakow compared with developments in the UK.

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Abstract

Based on recently published work (Djordjevic et al, 2018 and Kantarek et al, 2018) and studies currently being undertaken as a contribution to a project on Post-Socialist Urban Form at Belgrade University and Cracow University of Technology, this paper compares recent developments in these two cities with projects undertaken over the last two decades in the UK, particularly but not exclusively, in Oxford. A range of realised projects will be selected for analysis based on an urban transect running from the city centre to the urban periphery. It is hypothesised that some projects in Belgrade and Krakow e.g. new central area shopping malls, railway stations rebuilt as major shopping centres, and gated housing communities, are immediately comparable to those in the UK since their form does not depend on their post-socialist contexts. Rather their form depends on the similarity of the circumstances of land ownership, the influence of the sources of finance, and the structure of the development industry, as well as the regulatory and enforcement contexts. Other projects are very dissimilar e.g. low-density individual houses on the urban periphery and attitudes towards the conservation of post-war housing developments. It is suggested that these differences depend on the durability of history with respect to factors of land and property ownership and the traditions of planning and development in the three contexts which have been carried across major changes in political economic circumstances.

Keywords

urban form, post socialist compared with Western Europe

Skopje's urbanism of "everything is possible" – How does it compare to other post-socialist urbanisms?

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Abstract

Almost all the Balkan countries have experienced a prolonged post-socialist transition. "Everything is possible," the advertisement for Skopsko, the beer brewed by Skopje's Brewery, deeply reflects this transitional age. These post-socialist countries inherited strong technocratic/bureaucratic planning institutions that suddenly faced a neoliberal paradigm. In the Republic of Macedonia, the notion that everything is possible turned entrepreneurs into bureaucrats and bureaucrats into entrepreneurs in the 1990s. The so-called "urban mafia" (entrepreneurial bureaucratic complex) shaped Skopje project-by-project, building-by-building for almost 15 years. Between 2006 and 2016, a new entrepreneurial government triggered an unexpected turn towards national romanticism while keeping a spirit of socialist technocracy/bureaucracy. This period had a profound effect on Skopje as a capital. The national government put roughly half a billion euros on a neo-baroque urban makeup of Skopje (officially "Vision Skopje 2014") that added an exotic post-socialist historical urban layer. Now Skopje has public spaces surrounded by "Las (Skopj)V(egas)" postmodern eclectic façades and gigantic sculptures that evoke immense surprise equally among citizens and tourists. The government won the election, but did not manage to make a governmental majority in 2017. The new government promised a swift removal of the national romantic period. This paper argues that Skopje's urbanization of "everything is possible" does not compare to other post-socialist urbanisms. The relevance of Skopje 2014 is that it opens a debate for different futuristic pluralities of unique post-socialist urbanisms, not a quest for one transitional model for all Balkan countries. "Las (Skopj)V(egas)" might look like a bizarre manifestation (in terms of kitsch architecture and sculptures) of national romantic technocracy/bureaucracy and governmental power, but it shows that if there is a vision and political support, (in this case unexpected) urban transformation and development can happen even in post-socialist Balkan countries stuck in a lengthy transition and melancholy.

Keywords

post-socialist, urbanism, Skopje, futurism, pluralities

Alienation, appropriation, autogestion... Territoriale: urban artefacts as carriers of spatial self-management*

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Abstract

"Alienation, Appropriation, Autogestion" looks at (post-)socialist urban spaces and the sociopolitical roles they carried in order to identify their contemporary pertinence and potential towards a reappropriation of open, urban spaces by its users. This essay will notably focus on a parallel reading of two threads of Lefebvrian** theory — the right to the city and autogestion, including his 1986 proposal for the Competition for the Urban Restructuring of New Belgrade. Additionally, it will focus on the mechanisms of organization of city life and the role of urban spaces in Yugoslav self-managed socialism, especially the notion of 'platial' communities (*mesne zajednice*). The essay will rely on analyses of the theoretical and practical implications and instances of self-management in the everyday life and urban spaces in the (post-)Yugoslav region, but focus on New Belgrade, which was 'born' the same year — 1948 — as the Yugoslav, self-managed way in socialism, and where the country's first platial community was founded in 1963. Besides these analyses, the essay will include a series of conversations with current and former inhabitants of New Belgrade, born and raised in this part of the once capital of Yugoslavia both during and after the country's existence. Through a proposal for a deepening of this notion of platiality, the essay will look at and try to offer possibilities for exploring notions of citizenship, right to the city, using and consuming the urban, looking at and learning from, as well as reclaiming and activating socialist heritage and principles in urban space.

* The term self-management is a rough English translation of Serbo-Croatian *самоуправљање*/*samoupravljanje* or French autogestion. The words *upravljanje* and *gestion*, besides management, also imply the meanings of directing, determination, administration, organization, etc.

** Henri Lefebvre (1901-1991) was a French Marxist sociologist and philosopher, who dealt extensively with space, the city, and the everyday.

Keywords

self-management, right to the city, socialist heritage, citizenship, platiality

Post-socialist housing in Novi Sad, Serbia

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Abstract

The death of Yugoslav leader Josip Broz Tito in 1980 unofficially marked the beginning of the decomposition of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as well as the "transitional" period. The period of political and economic crisis between 1980 and 1990, culminated with the armed conflicts during the 90s, which lead to the official disintegration of SFRY. Under Tito's regime, during which socialist paradigms were present in every-day life, architectural and urban developments were funded by the the state itself. Mass migrations of people from rural to urban areas were provoked by the rapid industrial development of SFRY, hence these residential developments were often large multi-storey buildings. However, even if they were meant for large numbers of people, the residential blocks were designed with the "human scale" in mind, with sufficient space between buildings, creating public spaces with greenery in the court-yards. After 1990, architectural and urban developments were designed in a completely different context. The armed conflicts along with their political and economic consequences led to a large number of war refugees fleeing to Serbia and the city of Novi Sad. This meant that there was a vast need for housing, which resulted in investors taking full advantage of that fact. Residential buildings built in the beginning of the 90s were designed so as to create the most usable space as possible (to maximize profit). Lots were completely used, leaving residents with no public space. This way of investment-led urban development is still the practice at-large in Novi Sad. By comparing and analysing housing blocks and residential buildings from these two periods, the aim of this research is to summarise the positive and negative characteristics of these two types of urban development in order to gain insight and research potential approaches for the further development of the city.

Keywords

The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Novi Sad, Serbia, post-socialist housing

The role of land ownership in small towns' development

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Abstract

Political changes in Poland lasting for almost 30 years and the resulting changes in regulations are designed to reshape ownership patterns in the country mainly via privatization, which also changes the way that urban space is managed and developed. Over the long term, the new ownership structures in cities in Poland will not only affect functional and spatial patterns, but also the development capability of the manufacturing and service sectors. The significance of both the ownership structure and its internal relationships is already reflected in problems observed in the development of small towns, which have borne the burden of privatization for many years now. However, private ownership in itself has been returned to its rightful place in Polish society. The process of sorting out each given case of property issues is still ongoing along with the process of changing Polish law. The ongoing process of privatization often halts stable development and makes it difficult to work on spatial management plans. A diagnosis of the state of development of small towns appears to be highly desirable in the context of determinants resulting from the urban land ownership structure as the foundation of the organization and utilization of urban space. The goal of the presentation is to attempt to determine the level of significance of existing differences in the form and structure of land ownership in the development of small towns in Poland. With this purpose in mind, it is necessary to consider the vital role of ownership of land in the development of small towns in the context of the increasing role of land prices and the relative lack of studies on the land ownership factor in contemporary geographic research in Poland.

Keywords

small towns, land ownership, Poland

Departing from the post-socialist city: emigration and urban morphologies in southeastern Europe

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Abstract

To search for a job abroad has been a common socio-economic practice to balance the everyday challenges of post-socialist transition, with emigration rates of most post-socialist countries continuing to be on a tremendously high level. Urban studies, however, hardly scrutinized the impact of emigration on urban development in the post-socialist sphere. At best, the analysis of outward migration has been subsumed under the framework of the “shrinking city.” Based on an understanding of migration as a spatiotemporal process that triggers additional, multidirectional flows of people, ideas, goods and resources, this paper argues that transnational labour migration does not necessarily lead to decay and void. Rather, emigration materializes in urban morphologies in different ways and potentially triggers a distinct mode of urban development. First, transnational emigration is based on a specific transport infrastructure that facilitates and redirects flows. Second, emigration triggers intermediaries and service providers that further enhance and ease circular forms of migration. Third, remittances being invested into real estate significantly reshape the built environment. While the “double home” (Bendix and Löfgren, 2007) of migrants has often been associated with informality, remittance-driven construction activities potentially also spur a specific segment of transnational real estate markets. Based on empiric exemplars from Kosovo and Romania, this paper aims to show that emigration is an important facet to fully grasp urban development in post-socialist cities.

Keywords

migration, urban development, departure city, remittances, translocalism

[illegible]

Morphological development of micro districts under pressure of post-socialist transformations (case studies of the Siberian cities)

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Abstract

The analyses of the morphological transformations of micro districts in Siberian cities that have occurred so far showed from one side the micro districts' concept vitality and on the other side, confirmed the immutability of the laws of urban morphology. Fundamentally important is the study of the changes in the private and public relationship on residential territories due to the different types of land tenure, land use, and home ownership. The second block of study presents consequences of the technological revolution that changed the idea of employment of the population and about the areas of distribution of places of employment. The other goal of the study is an investigation of the different types of population mobility: physical, social, economic. The latter have multiplied as a result of the same technological revolution, as well as political and economic transformations that took place in the country. Requirements to the ecological quality of the residential environment increased both within the civil and professional societies as well. All of the above led to transformations in the lifestyle of the Russian citizens and to the development of an urban form of micro districts. The analyses of the morphological transformations of micro districts in the Siberian cities showed: there was a land survey in the past monographic territory; there is an increase in the integration of labor activity in the residential environment in connection with the development of small and medium businesses and localization of the social communities; and market and recreational areas are localizing. The tendency of the exacerbation of micro districts self-sufficiency increased in the whole. They are becoming more and more like "towns within towns," each with its own individual morphological and social structure. These phenomena require other management and planning of micro district development including participation of all interested parties on par with the local community. The micro district as the residential unit is becoming an element of flexible city development, which is able to respond to the changing needs of society, while remaining the most optimal and rational model of comfortable living.

Keywords

urban form, micro district, post-socialist city

Morphological patterns of outer fringe belts of the socialist city in Post-socialist period

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Abstract

Distinctive features of urban planning in the socialist period had an impact on the modern urban fabric of Russian Post-socialist cities. At the beginning of the 20th century, urban expansion and urban population growth impacted cities to the adjacent areas. In the Soviet period, a potential of outer fringe belts for planned development were investigated, methods for their analysis and design were developed and attempts to regulate their size and zoning were undertaken. In the period from 1917 to the early 2000s, the abolition of private ownership of urban land and immovable property and state planning of the national economy were focused on rational land use in cities to deal with the housing crisis, industrialization, and location of industry. Nevertheless unplanned entities arose at the existing cities periphery near the city border, despite the town planning schemes and expected development. Large-scale industry, adjacent residential buildings, and green spaces emerged spontaneously in the outer fringe belt. Partial cancellation of state ownership of urban land aggravated this situation. By the beginning of the 21st century, the outer fringe belts became embedded within the modern structure of Post-socialist cities in the form of distinctive morphological areas, creating new tasks for organizing the spatial connectivity of urban areas. These included economic, environmental and social problems of cities as a whole. The article presents a comparative analysis of the formation of the urban fabric of modern Post-socialist cities since of the 20th century. The characteristic morphological areas of the socialist period are highlighted. Their distinctive features from the morphological pattern of the city and their transformation under the influence of modern conditions are analyzed.

Keywords

outer fringe belt, Soviet period, urban morphology

Transformation of public spaces in a post-socialist city

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Abstract

The public spaces that formed as a result of centralized urban planning activity are very typical for Russia, Central, and Eastern Europe (CMEA) as well. They were considered as territories of demonstrations or conducting mass marches, and parades. Therefore, it is characterized by a ceremonial character as a response to the ideological task of the development of society. Main streets and squares were accompanied by presentational architecture. Changing socio-economic and political conditions have led to a rethinking of not only the appearance, but also the values in the city. Today the urban planning problem of these spaces is that they have lost their original functions and in many cases have become empty. While public life in the city is becoming increasingly active and requires multifunctional open public spaces. In turn, multifunctionality implies a variety of public-private partnerships, different levels of business, and increased demands on the quality of urban spaces. The wide range of requirements indicates the need to improve and renew current methods of planning. In this context, it becomes relevant to study the main social, planning transformations, which have occurred in open public spaces, and has led to changes in their urban form. An analysis of their transformation shows that their formation is directly dependent on integrating small and medium-sized businesses and increasing social public activity. Basic directions of their spatial transformation should be outlined: preservation and renovation of the historic morphology of open public space, adaptation to contemporary conditions and requirements, and preservation as a symbol of historical heritage.

Keywords

open public space, socialist public spaces, spatial transformation

Housing construction and spatial forms of the development of Moscow agglomeration

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Abstract

The aim of the study is to identify the spatial forms of development of the Moscow agglomeration (MA) under the impact of housing construction. A concentric-sectoral version of the MA model with the boundaries of concentric belts tied to price barriers in the housing market is proposed. Six belts and eight sectors are allocated. The spatial form of MA's growth is determined by the ratio of extensive and intensive development of the territory at the macrolevel (balance between housing construction in different belts) and at the microlevel (the location of projects in relation to existing building). In 2015-2017, the extensive path of development at the macrolevel (construction behind the Moscow Ring Road) accounted for 80% of new housing, at the microlevel (construction on the free territories) – 50%. Sprawling urban building only at an aggregate level can be modeled using the model of "oil spot." In fact, the mechanism of sprawling is of a different nature in different zones. The most intensive processes of sprawling occur in the northwestern and southwestern sectors of the near Moscow oblast, which leads to the formation of a circular urban fabric. As the distance from the Moscow Ring Road increases, uniform sprawling is replaced by the strengthening of the axes of the urban framework along highways, primarily in the north-eastern and southeastern sectors. 70% of housing construction is concentrated in the 30-km zone behind the Moscow Ring Road. This zone is the main "territory of entry" of migrants to MA. Regulation of the intensity of housing construction in this zone makes it possible to control the development of the national settlement system.

Keywords

housing construction, real estate market, Moscow urban agglomeration, concentric belts, modeling, migrants

Lost identities of transformed urban spaces in east Germany's post-socialist cities

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Abstract

After 1989, the former GDR underwent significant social, political and economic transitions that led to a shift in both the needs and the evaluation of large settlements from the 1960s to the 1970s. The conditions of the transformation in east Germany were unique compared to the other CEE countries: some settlements lost almost 50% of their inhabitants, and a centralized and well-endowed funding system financed spatial transformations that have occurred over the past 30 years. In my paper, I will discuss which spatial elements were transformed, how these transformations altered the spatial identities of the settlements, and whether spatial identities were considered during the processes of transformation. I will show how the destruction of buildings has changed the spatial configurations, highlight the structural consequences of rezoning and privatization, and show the spatial impacts that technical upgrading had on the appearance and identity of the buildings and open spaces. The planning model of the “European City” has altered the settlements dramatically. I will debate whether the resulting transformations worked deliberately against modernist ideals or if external restrictions such as norms and market requirements have been the trigger for the negation of the heritage of socialist modernist cities. I will draw primarily from my own research conducted over the past three years. The chair of international urban design at the KIT in Karlsruhe has worked during this time extensively on the heritage of socialist cities. We have researched the transformation of large settlements, focusing on built-up structures, function and density, transportation and open spaces. I will also work with existing literature on specific case studies. With comparative drawings from before and after the transformation, I will highlight structural changes, determine how significant the transformations were and how they altered the logic of the settlements.

Keywords

spatial structural transformation, East Germany, spatial identity

“Three digit blocks”; the socialist imprint on the housing strategies in Eastern Europe and the Middle East

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Abstract

With the increasing spread of socialism, housing policies went through a crunch point during the middle of the twentieth century. Many cities at that time were under the control of totalitarian regimes and were forced to follow specific developmental strategies during times of low levels of economy and limited industrialisation resources. It was a dominant model that has defined the socio-political and economic movements of the countries that followed it.

In that regard, this paper looks closely at two pioneering housing projects built in the 1960s, one in East Germany ‘Halle Neustadt’ and the other in Egypt ‘The Workers City’. Both prototypes were established to provide identical living spaces for a large number of families of workers employed in the nearby industrial centres. They also went through phases of metamorphization along three generations after their establishment due to social and economic changes post socialist times.

The German case witnessed enormous diminution in its population, which led the state to remove empty pre-fab blocks and renovate the facades of remaining blocks. A solution that has improved the physical condition, but not the social aspects which continue to make it a tough place to live. The Egyptian case, however, is a good example of ‘informalization’ of a formal planned project since the 1990s, where housing is no longer regarded as a human need, but rather as a profitable commodity. It is now an over-populated district with deteriorating blocks surrounded by inhuman living conditions of relapsing infrastructure and crime outbreak.

The paper will identify the dominant characteristics and similarities in the performance of the socialist housing systems in both cases, while shedding the light on reasons that led to the current condition.

The objective is to find an approach that would prevent other areas from becoming a social-problem zone which might eventually lead to a politically explosive situation.

Keywords

Socialist housing, Egypt, Germany

[illegible]

Contested Functions of (Socialist) Architecture in Post-Socialist Cities

In former socialist countries, architecture was state-sponsored discipline, supposed to "crystallize the new forms of socialist life" and become official visual and spatial expression of national culture.

The program of architecture correlated with political and social program, embodying thus different social, cultural, educational, political, ideological and representational functions. The building types such as cooperative houses, culture homes, workers' homes, (youth) memorial centres, workers' universities, and many others were seen as "social condensers" of a time, progressive and visionary enterprises, whose architectural qualities educated masses, represented and promoted values of "new society". The collapse of socialist state made this architectural production de-contextualized, but also, architectural discipline out of consideration for its capacity to make change.

The session deals with new social, political, educational, representational roles and functions of architecture in the post-socialist era. It questions the capacity of contemporary architecture to promote and support the change in time of transition. Can architecture be on the forefront of change, as it used to be? What are the values of architecture in society in transition, and what are architectural values? Is there "great architecture" in transition? What are the values of state architecture nowadays?

Another approach to the topic considers strategies for re-approaching, re-use, re-programming, re-modelling and re-branding of former buildings and sites of socialist-state. Their often disputed volume, spatial capacity, visual abstraction and emptiness is taken for (speculative) resource in turbulent process of spatial and architectural re-appropriation and new (commercial) use. Can the (socialist) heritage be utilized in such process, as an interim strategy, until new architecture evolves? Can they enclose, once again, content resting on the progressive societal, cultural, artistic (and ideological) ideas? Can it help to understand and rehabilitate the discipline of architecture? Is their temporary occupation solution for their transition into more certain future, which embraces their actual values?

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Dr. Dragana Konstantinovic works as assistant professor. She is practicing architect and active researcher in the field of architecture and urbanism. Her work includes identification, promotion and design strategies for programmatic reutilisation of the architectural heritage of the socialist modernism; activities regarding promotion of architectural profession and practice; studies of the multilateral relations of architectural discipline with present spatial, urban and cultural policies, legal and regulatory framework. She teaches architectural design and courses related to history and theory of architecture.

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Dr. Miljana Zekovic currently holds a position of an Associate Professor. She has been working in the education sector for the past fourteen years, teaching Architectural Design, Ephemeral Architecture, Scene Architecture and Architecture of Exhibition and Events. Miljana is a co-founder and a board member of the non-profit architecturally oriented Ephemera Collective, with her research interests in spatial design and practices, spatial phenomenology, and the interdisciplinary experiments in domain of architecture and correlating disciplines.

Size matters: problems and potentials of bigness of public socialist buildings

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Abstract

During the period of socialist Yugoslavia, the size of buildings was not only the result of form and function in architecture, but also, and maybe primarily, the question of representation and support of ruling ideology. The size especially of public buildings, mediated aspirations, determinations, and commitment toward idealized future, which is an infallible representative of ideology of this kind. Thus, the size of the building was not a consequence of design brief; it was systemic, propagated and planned. With the failure of the predefined goal - idealized communist society - the size of these buildings lost its original role and their bigness became the issue in the process of rationalization, following the transition process in post-socialist societies. Implementation of the market-oriented system of management led to, among other effects, a reduction of the state apparatus, public property, and state participation in the market. As a result of systemic rationalization, the size of buildings became a "burden" to deal with, which was usually resolved by methods of building destruction or privatization, which again almost usually, led toward partial or total destruction of the building, in its final outcome. This paper deals with possible scenarios for the future of big public buildings, in the current state of transition in post-socialist societies. Three different building types are considered in this research - infrastructural, memorial, and public (sports and recreation). Taking as a starting point their architectural, societal, and symbolic values which are maintained even in post-socialist cities, as well as the fact that their major function, in global, is preserved, the presented case studies give the inputs for various methodologies and scenarios for their re-utilization, revitalization, reconstruction, reactivation and reprogramming. These studies, although speculative in their nature, are based on the real research and studies of historical and contemporary context. This open and unbiased approach, has for its final goal the comprehension of the bigness as a key potential for the future life of these buildings.

Keywords

Yugoslavia, socialist modernism, public buildings, bigness, reconstruction, re-programming

Recourse to utopia: architecture and the production of sense without meaning

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Abstract

Thinking through the Beko Masterplan (Zaha Hadid Architects, 2018) and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Belgrade (MoCAB) (Ivan Antic and Ivanka Raspopovic, 1960), this paper attempts to understand the efficacy of architecture in the production of subjectivity, both during and post-communism in Yugoslavia's former capital, Belgrade. Both buildings embody that which Jill Stoner terms major architectures, 'the architecture of state and economic authority.' Seeking to explore how deep ideological signifiers lie in the texture of a built structure, I explore by way of comparison Yugoslav-socialist architecture and neoliberal architectures, as embodied by my two examples. The purpose of this is to recognize the difference in subjective production within two different political regimes within the same terrain at different points in history, whereby citizens themselves become indivisible from their conditions of subjective emergence. Where MoCAB pre-formulates a subject of state-socialism, rendering ones positions within as always part of a larger social machine, Hadid's plans are reliant on the protection afforded by literal and experiential enclosure. The former is a node upon which the collective consciousness of the Yugoslav citizen would supposedly rest, while the latter eschews that which is subjectively and spatially outside of itself, relying instead on the grandeur of its own form to dictate the direct – but isolated – experience of those subjects to whom it is accessible. Hadid's project is perhaps instead, evocative of the severing of direct social relationships as is understood in theorisations of contemporary neoliberalism, while MoCAB gestures towards a universal sociality beneath which its subjects are supposedly equal. What can be understood from this exploration is the efficacy of architecture in the production of subjectivity and the subsequent spaces for resistance within and beyond this subjective capture.

Keywords

architecture, neoliberalism, post-socialism, subjectivity, utopia

The new social reality of ex-socialist architecture

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Abstract

The architectural creative process implies the change of the existing context, which, due to its application of abstract intervention, suggests a certain level of utopia or ideology. The nature of the transformation is determined to the accepted abstract value system and the imaginary projection of changes. The reality in the period of socialism seeks to transform into an ideal type, a universal model, with the aim of optimizing living conditions. Architecture becomes a model of the transformation of social reality. The concrete user turns into an abstraction an objective norm, which brings architecture more to a system with macro perception. The period of post-modern and contemporary architectural practices overlaps with the contemporary political and economic context to the extent that they are vague boundaries of their separation. The problem of the manipulation of real and concrete is simultaneously portrayed as inseparable elements of the concept. The principles of social in architecture are examined within specific ideological frameworks by exploring the phenomenon of abandonment and devastation of case studies from the period of socialism, and their reuse within the new socio-economic context and current European migration crisis. Previous social functions of architecture are compared with their current use by migrants within specific local conditions and particular attention to elements of social context transformation and the role of architecture. Current use of facilities at the border of Bosnia and Herzegovina is critically examined within the contemporary theoretical research of bottom-up concepts and their social imperative, defining the real problem and its social benefits. Case studies are analyzed in relation to micro and macro levels, investigating architecture through social processes with the aim of defining the level of a decision-making process, user-defined space, and the real significance for the community.

Keywords

social architecture, migration crisis, politics of architecture, community and user defined space

Place attachment in the Solidarity Housing Estate Prague

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Abstract

The urbanistic structures and architecture influence the cities, districts, communities, and individuals. Knowing more about people, their needs, wishes and feelings developed in particular places (especially their homes) is an important feature to know how to create cities, neighbourhoods, and places for them. Places are spaces mentally constructed by people who know them and use them. Places include memories, narratives, history, everyday life with emotions and attachments to the environment. One of the most important places for people is their home. In this study, based on the mixed-use of qualitative methods (interviews, observation, mental mapping), I attempt to show how residents of the Solidarita Housing Estate in Prague perceive their homes. According to the anthropological concept of Place attachment (Altman & Low, 1992; Scannell, & Gifford 2010), I want to discuss, what the relationship to this special urban environment is, and how this environment, based on the cooperation, ideal of social solidarity, and human scale has changed. Solidarita Housing Estate was built as one of the first prefabricated housing estates in Prague between 1947 and 1951, in the period of a post-war reconstruction in Czechoslovakia. The architects of the project were looking for a balance between individualistic private family houses and collective housing estates with all of the benefits of these various housing types included. They designed a simple urban plan of row houses and four-floors blocks of flats. The project drew on the international housing standards popular in Scandinavia such as a collective approach to neighbourhood life, public and cultural facilities, and green surroundings with gardens and park. Today, this neighbourhood stands out as an example of how the physical aspects of space influence the social aspects and reinforce the attachment to the place.

Keywords

community, identity, place attachment, solidarita housing estate Prague, urban anthropology

[illegible]

The transformation of urban environment of Tirana during the post-socialist transition

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Abstract

This paper investigates the transformation of cities after the collapse of state socialism in Europe and the socio-spatial impacts of the process. The paper asserts that post-socialist transition, with their neo-liberal agenda, influence the creation of new urban environments and new conditions of living and working in cities by triggering new dynamics in the functioning of certain urban mechanisms such as labour and land markets, which are conceptualized in the study as urban interface mechanisms. The paper also asserts that as well as the ongoing functioning of urban interface mechanisms, the resilience of urban inhabitants is also an important determinant of the socio-spatial outcomes of the experienced urban transformation. The influence of new dynamics in labour and land markets are discussed for understanding how the changes in the conditions of living and working for urban inhabitants are created, how the different types of vulnerabilities and opportunities for urban inhabitants are created within this process and what is the role of social resilience, measured by the adaptive capacity of the inhabitants, in the determination of the socio-spatial effects of the urban transformation process. In order to answer these questions a research study had been conducted in a growing business centre in Tirana, capital city of Albania, and in the surrounding neighbourhoods, which have different physical, functional and socio-economic patterns. The experience of different inhabitant groups had been investigated and compared in order to understand the parts played by neo-liberal policies, functioning of interface mechanisms and social resilience in the experienced outcomes of urban transformation. This study aims to provide a critical ground of discussion to construe person-urban environment interaction and its transformations towards the future by means of conceptualization in architectural and sense-oriented terms. Urban environment is taken into account both as a process of representation of time and sense of identity, and as a 'text' to be read and understood. A person, within the boundaries of this research, is the individual who has the ability of attributing meanings to his/her urban environment, understanding and interpreting the essence represented there, and reconstructing urban images. The viewpoint of this study is conceptual and future-oriented.

Keywords

post-socialist transition, urban transformation, social resilience, migration

From Soviet utopia to new opportunities

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Abstract

This research studies two cities in west Georgia, Chiatura and Tskaltubo, which today are shrinking and losing their function and are therefore in need of conceptualization. The two cities of Stalin era were built on Soviet utilitarian ideology and intended to be the mechanisms needed by then, the Soviet Republic of Georgia for proper functioning. No one considered the history, or the landscape of the region when designing and building these cities, also ignoring the needs of the people who lived in the area. In both cases, brutal interventions were carried out in order to satisfy Soviet administration and most importantly, produce goods for Soviet Republics. The first part of the presentation will address the history of the two cities and the significance of urban planning in the region, arguing that human interventions created urban spaces that functioned as machines. These were part of Soviet utopian expressions. Chiatura was meant to be an industrial city with manganese ore mines on top of the mountains; and Tskaltubo was to function as the largest therapeutic health resort in the Soviet Union. Both cities were conceived as such due to their natural resources – manganese ores in Chiatura and hot springs in Tskaltubo. But once the Soviet Union collapsed, both cities started to shrink and deteriorate.

Keywords

Soviet, shrinking cities, utopia, urban problems

Destruction or decay: the outlook of postwar industrial heritage of Serbia

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Abstract

After the end of World War II in Yugoslavia, the new government had a very important and difficult task – extensive modernization and the creation of a socialist society. Industrialization was an important part of this plan and had started as early as 1946 with the construction of the railroad Brčko-Banovići and continued rapidly in the following years. The goal of this paper is to stress the importance of preserving industrial complexes created after World War II as witnesses of the industrialization progress or instant industrialization that happened in Yugoslavia. The ideology that created these industrial giants has since been long-gone leaving behind a society in transition where sociopolitical and economic changes are taking their toll on the country's industry, especially in the factories and industrial complexes created during the socialist era. The most important question asked in this paper is whether there is a destiny for these structures other than decay or destruction. The paper presents several factories in Belgrade and Serbia that were constructed during the socialist era and points out their importance in a historical context, but also their condition and state today. The research was conducted not only by investigating historical sources, but also by stepping into the field, visiting, or trying to visit, the factories and communicating with the people who once worked there or are currently connected to these places in one way or another. By telling the history of these industrial complexes and trying to understand their place and role today, this paper aims to provide different suggestions for their continued life in the future.

Keywords

deindustrialization, industrial heritage, Yugoslavia, regeneration, reuse

The three layers of the city of Kukes: a proposal for revitalizing collective urban memory

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Abstract

The paper focuses on the city of Kukes, situated in north-eastern Albania. The city as seen today is a result of the special circumstances of the decision to inundate the old city in favor of the construction of a HEC, and the top-down socialist urban planning of residential blocks and industrial chromium mines co-living on the vast underground network of nuclear tunnels. The new city, shaped like a peninsula, is surrounded by the fluctuating waters of Fierza which allow the ruins of the old city to resurface several times during the year. At the same time, the underground “city” is practically leftover space. These three layers testify each for a different period of time in the history of the creation of the city: pre, mid, and post socialism. The paper investigates a symbiotic relationship between the past and the present: a multi-layered concept that will combine one historical idea to a contemporary counterpart creating a dynamic proposal. A multi-scale analysis is conducted based on literature written by native authors of Kukes as well as universal concepts such as landmarks, urban artifacts, nostalgia, authenticity, and cultural preservation are interpreted contextually. A framework for the inclusion of a contemporary architectural intervention enables adaptive site reuse in order to provide a city with a positive social, cultural, and economic impact. More specifically, the connection among the three layers of the city of Kukes is proposed with a focus on the revitalization of the unused underground network of tunnels and improvement of the overall cityscape.

Keywords

urban memory, historical layers, cultural preservation, nuclear bunkers

Post-socialist spatial and functional restructuring of residential dvors (courtyards) in Yekaterinburg's mikrorayons (formerly Sverdlovsk)

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Abstract

This paper explores the urban change which took place during the last decades of post-Soviet restructuring of the Russian industrial city of Yekaterinburg (formerly Sverdlovsk), investigating the spatial and social transformation of its residential dvors (courtyards) in the late Soviet development of mikrorayons (micro districts). The focus of Soviet architectural design and planning was consistently centred around the creation of both indoor and outdoor spaces to facilitate various forms of sociability. In the late Soviet urban residential mikrorayon structure, these spaces included communal residential areas, youth centres, sports clubs and palaces of culture, which served local communities of residents, providing educational opportunities for children as well as cultural and entertainment functions for a wider community of mikrorayon residents. Exploring cases of industrial districts of Uralmash and Khimmash, the paper traces their post-socialist spatial and functional change under the condition of new post-Soviet economic and social restructuring. This includes the conversion of comprehensively planned car-free communal areas into private car parks, sub-division of open areas into gated clusters of self-managed residential dvors and the conversion of public infrastructure, such as kindergartens, sports clubs and palaces of culture into commercial facilities, whose functions no longer serve the social needs of the local residential communities. Such spatial transformations of public infrastructure has also transformed the social relationships between the residents of mikrorayons, who formed unequal micro-urban communities of residents of gated residential blocks within the territories of post-Soviet micro districts. The success and positions of these communities depend largely on their ability to cooperate with each other and combine their efforts in the negotiation of their own interests with the local authorities. The paper also discusses the current campaign initiated by the local residents of the Khimmash mikrorayon who confront the demolition of the Palace of Culture, which contains various cultural, educational and sports programmes for children, continuing to serve the local community of residents. However after privatisation, its new owner intends to replace it with a high-rise residential block.

Keywords

post-socialist urban change, post-Soviet mikrorayons, Yekaterinburg

1989-2019 CEE Urban Transformation Revisited: City Visions, Self-made Transitions and Alternative Development Models

Urban transformation of post-socialist cities, as envisaged by national and municipal governments, was from the start marked by the ambition to move away from 'compromised' solutions of the past into the bright 'European' future with the Western city positioned as an ideal model of this transformation (Young & Kaczmarek, 2008). Instead of facilitating those ambitions, the early transition period, however, reinforced informal and makeshift urban solutions. In particular challenging economic context, legal loopholes and uncontrolled privatisation processes reinforced phenomena such as: spontaneous commercial activities (Vasilevska et al., 2015), self-built construction and self-made housing extensions (Hirt, 2012; Salukvadze & Golubchikov, 2015) and/or growth of informal settlements (Tsenkova, 2009). Consequently, some aspects of the urban transformation in CEE resembled trends occurring in the Global South rather than in Western Europe, with variety of ad-hoc and add-on structures (Grubbauer, 2015) representing a form of "confused eclecticism" (Hirt, 2008). These phenomena, nowadays overlap with the remains of the previous era, that is, the "frozen mirrors of socialism" (Sýkora & Bouzarovski, 2012: 45), as well as the outcomes of the private and public sector led planning processes.

This panel invites papers, which explore these phenomena from diversity of disciplinary, methodological and institutional perspectives. Those may include citizens' responses ranging from resistance, formalisation or transformation as well as public sector's responses such as eradication, integration or passiveness. Examples of interesting themes include (but are not limited to): self-managed (housing) developments and extensions, informal trading, appropriation of common and public spaces, different forms of 'adjustment of urban patterns' (Jacobsson, 2015: 11) or the creation of new symbolic landscapes. The panel encourages papers, which build parallels with the processes occurring beyond the region and the conventional conceptual frameworks shaping the discourse on post-socialist transition. Simultaneously the session seeks to investigate process occurring beyond mere physical structure: therefore, contributions that explore "an inextricable link between social and material changes" (Hirt, 2012: 39).

Beyond the Global North and South: contemporary studies of local activism in post-Soviet Russia

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Abstract

Since the mid-2000s, Russian cities experienced an increase in protest activities: urbanites rise up to address their housing rights, to protest new urban developments, or to require new policies that would improve the quality of life in cities. In these efforts, they are often confronted by city administrations and business corporations, the initiators of urban transformations in question. Our goal in this paper is to identify the features of contestations over urban space in post-socialist cities to challenge and develop the existing theorization of these processes developed by scholars in the Global North and Global South. We argue that the evidence from post-socialist cities can contribute to theory building across regional contexts. The existing studies of local activism in Russian cities often revolve around “pacifying” the conflicts in cities, offering advice for the regional and local governments. The permeating presence of the state is a feature of Russian urban activism along with the low availability of what we call “civic infrastructures:” networks of neighbors and local activists, citizen-run media and social media platforms, non-profit organizations assisting the citizens, physical spaces for cooperation among citizens. Civic infrastructures are key to analyze the preparedness of civil society to engage with urban issues and its ability to make gains in the interactions with powerful and resourceful actors, state and business corporations. The configurations of state involvement and the availability of civic infrastructures vary across countries, and researchers in different national contexts tend to overemphasize one or the other. We argue that post-socialist cities offer evidence for a balanced theorization of these concepts. In our paper, we will elaborate on the specificity of state involvement and civic infrastructures in the Global North and South and will make a case for studies of activism in the “global middle” of post-socialist countries.

Keywords

post-Soviet Russia, urban space contestation, civic infrastructures

Stigmergic behaviours in urban transformation of post-socialist cities: case of Ukraine

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Abstract

The transition of the post-socialist city to the open society, private ownership and market economy in Ukraine during the almost last three decades crucially resulted on the chaotic urban development, degradation of large-scale residential areas in cities and industrial territories. The inertial urban theory of post USSR countries does not envisage the rapid informal processes, self-organization activity in urban environments, and informal trading, which are going on in cities, especially after the state planning system approach as 'administrative planning design' during 1917-1991. This context is not limited only to the case of Ukraine, but depicts the challenges in broader margins of post-soviet territories. Thus, the central goal of the paper is to work out the approach to understand the context of self-made transitions. The preliminary studies of self-organisation in the urban context allowed to apply the interdisciplinary concept of stigmergy in the research. The studies carried out around the concept of stigmergy in the urban environment reveal sets of variables that imply the definition of adequate units of space as well as stigmergic behaviours (actions and reactions in the context). However, it is assumed that although analysis is possible in morphologically defined units of space, stigmergic behaviours can often occur outside previously established rigid boundaries. This establishment of morphologically defined space units contains constraints and limits of analysis. The methodology of the research is built on application of the 'above morphology level' in stigmergic behaviour. In similar cases, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development established as a criterion the use of the concept of functional urban areas for the analysis of relations with incidence in urban and regional territories. The use of this concept extends the observation of stigmergic behaviours, as well as alternative development models of post-socialist transitions.

Keywords

post-socialist, Ukraine, stigmergy, stigmergic behaviour, functional urban area

Post-socialist reality: from informal settlement to detached suburbia, case of Niš, Serbia

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Abstract

Compared to Western Europe, industrialization was introduced with a significant delay in most post-socialist countries. In Niš, the biggest city in southeastern Serbia, the Electronic Industry (EI) was one of the main generators of explosive urbanization during the second part of the 20th century. This qualitative research was focused on three suburban settlements around the EI complex (Brzi Brod, Suvi Do, and Nikola Tesla) that were a part of this process. They were mostly developed in a way that was not considered regular or formal by urban practice. This paper contains analysis of their demographic and spatial development before and after the downfall of the EI, influenced by multiple socio-economic and political shifts in Yugoslavia and wider. Comparison of available urban plans, from half of the last century until modern days, along with statistics containing economic and demographic data, induced conclusions on the actual impact of the nearby industrial force on dynamics of the individual physical growth and potential tendencies to merge, but also on obvious spatial limitations. Findings brought new questions. Besides those on the urban scale, the author perceives the ones on the human scale equally important – trying to disintegrate the perspective of ‘suburban tissue’ into singular frames of its material, focusing on its units, internal and external forces that shaped it and observing the ‘informal and illegal’ as an ‘induced, accelerated and unforeseen creation of a habitat’.

Keywords

industrialization, urbanization, suburban settlements, informal settlements

Challenges of civic engagement in the (post-socialist) transitional society: experiences from waterfront urban areas Mezapark in Riga and Kalarand in Tallinn

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Abstract

The case studies examine community engagement in the design of detailed plans for urban areas of strategic importance - Mezapark in Riga and Kalarand in Tallinn. The detailed plans caused public outcries and lead to long-lasting and distressful negotiations between local communities, developers, designers and municipalities over the design and use of these areas. The debates highlighted the increasing public interest in planning-related issues and the growing demand for greater civic engagement in decisions shaping the city. At the same time, the debates demonstrated the inability of national and local planning frameworks to meet public expectations. The cases were studied through the analysis of national and local legal and institutional planning frameworks, documentation related to the detailed plans of Mezapark and Kalarand, and stakeholder opinions, which were collected through a series of semi-structures interviews. The data was thematically organized into a code matrix, which set facts against opinions and reflections from scientific publications on civic engagement. From the code matrix, a number of themes emerged. They reflect, arguably, the key challenges of civic engagement in the (post-socialist) transitional society. The preliminary conclusions are: (1) stakeholder opinions about the outcomes diverge from each other and from the actual facts, which is caused by deeply emotional engagement into the process; (2) local communities are capable of delivering high quality contributions as community activists are usually professionals in planning, architecture and/or legal fields; (3) community activists, designers, developers and local authority are in an antagonistic relationship and have biased perceptions of each other; (4) civic engagement is regulated by national legal frameworks, which are valid for all municipalities, and thus, are rather basic; (5) the public is poorly represented during the process, as many potentially affected groups are left out; (6) local authority does not engage as a mediator in solving conflicts between stakeholders. All in all there appears a salient need for changing local planning culture.

Keywords

civic engagement, conflict, Kalarand, Mezapark, public space

Reclaim positions and reimagine the city? Lviv urban experts since the late 1980s

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Abstract

Lviv experienced turbulent times during the twentieth century. Depopulated by the Second World War, it was an experimental field where Soviet planning ideas were envisioned and enacted. During the next decades Lviv became an important industrial and scientific center of the region of western Ukraine. After the collapse of the USSR the city inherited educational and scientific institutions developed during the state socialism as well as specific practices, cultural patterns, and systems of reference. Different actors started to be involved in the development of a new urban “identity,” which in the case of Lviv combined both “local,” “regional,” “pan-Ukrainian,” and “multicultural” aspects (Hentosh & Tscherkes, 2009: 276). I am focusing on these actors, which could be called “urban experts” – professionals who were imagining and directing the “shape” of the future of the city. In early 1990s their connections with the central planning schools in Moscow was shattered (Van Assche, Kristof, Verschraegen & Salukvadze, 2010); thus, architects had to look for new frameworks – either borrowed from European context or rather “hybrid” ones. Based on Lviv case my paper reveals how the social milieu of these professionals adapted to the paradigmatic shift or continued to reproduce habitual practices. I would delineate their personal strategies of navigation within changed social conditions: how they (re)assembled their expertise and what were the shifting boundaries of their authority. With such actor-driven and *longue durée* approach my project contributes to the discussion about the “legacies of communism” (Beissinger & Kotkin, 2014).

The paper’s source base includes semi-structured interviews with the key actors in the field: architects, urban planners, municipal workers, local urban activists, as well as it uses open archival collections of a number of institutions (for instance, the State Institute for Urban Planning “Mistoprojekt” and Lviv region department of the National Union of Architects of Ukraine).

Keywords

architects, authority, city visions, Lviv, urban expertise, urban planning

Typological narratives of a fragmented urban landscape; Case of Skopje

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Abstract

This abstract introduces the urban landscape of Skopje, shedding a light on its historical background leading to typological diversity and particular urban identity. During the 20th century the city of Skopje survived three typological shifts embodied in three urban designs proposals. At the end of the 19th century the city is developed mainly on the left side of the river Vardar appearing as “traditional city” with irregular structure of narrow streets merged to the local topography context. The first typological shift was envisioned by the project of Josif Mihajlovic in 1929. Within this project, the city fabric ought to extend, becoming an accurate top-down planned structure, hence transforming from *de facto* to *de jure*. The second typological shift emerges within the project of Ludjek Kubes in 1948, which abandons the previous “Genius Loci” and envisions a new model, following the concept of the functional city. In 1963, after the strike of a big earthquake, Skopje faces the third typological shift represented in the masterplan developed by Kenzo Tange and his collaborators. This time the focal point is the central city area which is almost completely developed on the right side of the river appearing as an ornamented megaform. Hence, Skopje encloses the 20th century partially carrying out these projects, portraying a collage of various typological models. Although these typological shifts originated from three conceptually divergent projects, these share several common features e.g. the plans did not take into account many cultural and social aspects of the local context and anticipated complete destruction of the historic bottom-up fabrics, an idea that never got realized. Lastly, with the latest project “Skopje 2014”, more than ever, the urban identity of Skopje faces many challenges. The most provoking one is how to include diverse typological narratives to coexist and further develop.

Keywords

Skopje, typological shifts, diversity, urban memory

"Authorities' point of view is to keep a silence": interaction between initiative groups and local authorities in the urban planning policy

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Abstract

Local authorities are often considered by initiative groups to be a target of their actions due to possessing of powers to regulate the sphere of urban planning. Urban activists are forced to appeal to local authorities trying to solve a problem regarding a transformation of an urban space. Yet in some cases interactions between activists and local authorities on urban planning issues turned to be fruitful, in other cases they do not. We argue that interactions between local authorities and urban activists are going to be rarely cooperative. Generally local officials have no enough incentives to cooperate with urban activists and help them. A cooperation is going to be possible and having fruitful outcomes when officials have some additional incentives. We illustrate this point by cases of urban planning conflicts in post-socialist Russian city - Perm. In some conflicts a cooperation turned to be possible and in other ones it absolutely did not. We are testing our argument on the databases 'Contentious Politics in the Russian Regions' and 'Perm Urban Conflicts: Struggle for Space', as well as on series of semi-structured interviews with activists and officials related to Perm urban planning sphere. We conclude that interactions between initiative groups and local authorities are rarely cooperative, while 'revealing' of a problem within urban public space and appealing of activists to the higher levels authorities (e.g. to a regional governor or the President) boost a chance that a problem is going to be solved. We propose the variation of local authorities-activists interactions, show conditions contributing to activists' success, as well as conditions in which participation of authorities in urban planning conflicts is perceived as a hindrance.

Keywords

local governance, local urban planning, urban activists

From block to city, and back: post-1989 transformation of residential neighborhoods in Podgorica

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Abstract

This paper looks into the post-1989 transformation of Podgorica by analyzing the ways in which two distinct urban neighborhoods, Blok 5 and City Kwart, have emerged from their respective socio-economic contexts at the beginning of the 1980s and 2010s. The comparison reveals how the changes in every sequence of the housing development mechanism - funding, planning, designing, building, owning - created vastly different cityscapes of the contemporary capital city, along with different, at times even opposing standards for what it means to live in an urban environment today. The analysis also shows the ways in which the practices of everyday life transcend the original rules, plans and designs and help reinvent the space in both of these neighborhoods, while highlighting their differences in the process. By existing almost side by side, Blok 5 and City Kwart showcase some of the most important points in urban development history of Podgorica and create a perfect stage from which current urban development policies, laws, choices and strategies should be examined, criticized and reimaged.

Keywords

transformation, urban development, urban planning, housing, public space

Social production of space in Kazan: between urban entrepreneurialism and bottom-up activism

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Abstract

The capital and largest city of one of the richest and most developed regions in the Russian Federation- Kazan, in the Republic of Tatarstan – is where global capital powers clash visibly in its territory, new trends in urbanization adopted to a specific socio-cultural context come into being, and international connections are formed. When Tatarstan conducted a long-term campaign initiated at the beginning of the 1990s, aimed at improving the political status of the republic and transforming the Russian Federation into a truly federal and multicultural entity, Kazan was used to that objective as its most apparent manifestation (Graney 2007: 17). In order to realize their objectives, local leaders had to accomplish important transformations including the “tatarizing” process of the urban landscape, which materialised itself, for example, in building the biggest mosque in Russia called Qolşärif Mosque located in Kazan Kremlin; trademarking Rospatent as “Russia’s third capital” using mega-events (e.g. 2013 Summer Universiade, 2018 FIFA World Cup et al.) as a catalyst of revitalisation processes. Created as a participatory policy of revitalisation of public space, the “Park Tatar” program -in the city space of Kaza- we can observe interesting strategies pursued by local elites. Simultaneously with these huge strategies and bottom-up initiatives, like the voluntary renovation of old architecture in the city centre, are existing and contributing into the urban landscape. Based on ethnographic research, this report aims to analyse how Kazan’s local elites make use of the category of urban entrepreneurialism to meet their objectives and elaborate on strategies of the city’s development, what influences urban activists have on the transformation of Kazan, and how the city space is shaped by different social actors.

Keywords

Kazan, Russia, urban policy, urban entrepreneurialism, urban activist, bottom up initiatives

Transitions and renovation projects at the central marketplace of post-socialist Sofia: changing values and plans from the 1980s till 2013

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Abstract

Drawing on a historical-ethnographic approach that binds the socialist, the early post-socialist and the contemporary consumer capitalist period in Bulgaria I will analyse transitions at a single urban site. Jemski Pazar, the central marketplace of Sofia, is a landmark of a century-long existence, where activities in the 1990s boomed with the collapse of socialist economy. Today, with the further globalization of trade and the rise of a Bulgarian middle class, it is the last place that caters for those groups that were left out – pensioners, minorities, immigrants, unemployed – providing a variety of unique for the city economic and social functions. However, the needs and perceptions of the society at large have also been changing, calling for policies for its transformation to a middle class consumption zone. In this paper I analyze through ethnographic study the contradictions borne by the market – between imagined futures, between cohabiting social groups, between needs and renewal policies, between recent past, present and future.

Keywords

social history, post-socialism, socialism, marketplaces, urban regeneration, urban planning, urban marginality.

Culture-led Urban Transformation and Tourism Potential in Post-socialist Europe and Beyond

Accelerated urbanisation conjoined with rapid industrialisation during the Socialist regimes continue to evolve along different routes in different countries, depending on their specific contexts and stages of transition. In terms of urban development, these differences are distinctly visible in the urban landscape, which transforms according to the orders of post-socialist political agendas. Culture and tourism play a key role in the urban transformation process by shifting the debate from the ideological and macroeconomic role of urbanisation to everyday practices and experiences in urban environments. Within this context, this session aims to explore questions of culture-driven tourism development and its impacts, both positive and negative on post-socialist cities. Accordingly, we welcome papers from different disciplines (anthropology, history, sociology, urban geography etc.) regarding (but not restricted to) the following domains:

- Urban identity
- Urban uses and public space
- Heritage conservation
- Creative industries
- Tourism and visitor experiences

Furthermore, the session also aims to offer alternative perspectives and multidisciplinary understandings for both broader aspects as well as for more specialised issues of concern in post-socialist transition. We therefore encourage reflections on the themes such as:

- Processes of commodification of culture and heritage in creating new urban identities
- Issues of representation, image and changing identity
- Conceptions of memory and “value” of socialist legacy
- Reconstruction of public space in post-socialist cities
- Socio-spatial impact of market-led flagship urban renewal projects and place branding strategies
- Processes of strategic spatial planning and participatory governance
- Issues of inclusive design and accessibility connected to adaptive reuse
- Creative industries and cultural spaces for sustainable tourism
- Impacts of globalisation and digitisation and tourism demand on tourism development
- Current issues and future perspectives for potential development of culture-led tourism

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Prof. Dr. Lauren Ugur is an urban development and management expert. Her research focuses on the realisation of integrated planning processes for the promotion of inclusive social and economic development. Currently, she holds a professorship for international tourism management at the Heilbronn University of Applied Science. Her most recent project has begun to unpack the economic, spatial and institutional complexities involved in the development of a resident-focused indicator set for inclusive local tourism development, starting with a case study on the City of Cape Town, South Africa.

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Dr. Evinc Dogan is a lecturer at Akdeniz University, Turkey. She holds PhD in Management and Development of Cultural Heritage from IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca (Italy). She edited a book titled “Reinventing Eastern Europe – Imaginaries, Identities and Transformations”, currently in press by Transnational Press London. Her research interests include urban transformation, city branding, visual culture, cultural heritage and tourism.

Survival of socialist legacy in Budapest city center

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Abstract

Since the turn of the millennium, Budapest city walking tours have become increasingly popular. Against our best efforts, we could not find any tour that touched on the built heritage of the socialist period. The only exceptional tour leads visitors to memorials, statues and politically relevant places and tells shocking stories about the communist years of the 1950s. To analyse this architectural amnesia, we follow a proposed touristic route along the historic city centre, which was not untouched by socialist building activity. Several of these buildings – typically infill projects – were highly appreciated by contemporaries and were featured in architectural guides of the 1970s and even in the 1990s. We assess and evaluate the state of these buildings and discover their stories. We look for the reasons why many buildings which were characterized by highly appreciated architectural values in the 1970s and 1980s, have been either demolished or rebuilt. Can this be regarded as necessary loss due to progress or is it the revaluation of a period sentenced to oblivion? Did these buildings lose their tangible or intangible value? We conclude that behind the underestimation of socialist building heritage, we find practical, financial and political reasons. In most cases, the organisation behind a community or office building dissolved and the expensive city centre plot was sold to a commercial enterprise, which demanded a relevant layout and an up-to-date outlook. These changes were celebrated and appreciated as progress by both the press and the profession. However, there is one special case when architects and historians successfully demonstrated against the transformation of an office building of the 1960s. In the background, we assume the high professional appreciation of the architect and the activity of his dedicated former colleagues.

Keywords

city centre, socialist building heritage, collective memory

Culture-led urban transformation and urban heritage in the postsocialist city: the case of Petrovaradin Fortress in Novi Sad

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Abstract

In this paper we start from the idea that neoliberal (economic) urban transformation of the post-socialist city is followed with the need to reinterpret the peripheral, postsocialist urban culture. Our assumption is that under these conditions, the cultural reinterpretation of the city takes place through the promotion of selected parts of its historical heritage and erasure of others. We examine this assumption on the example of the Petrovaradin Fortress in Novi Sad (Serbia). The selected results of two complementary sociological studies of the Petrovaradin Fortress and Lower Town in Novi Sad are presented: quantitative research conducted in 2016 (N=500) and qualitative research conducted in 2018 (N=19). The results of both studies show that the heritage of the Petrovaradin Fortress contains numerous cultural and historical layers that derives from the multiethnic and multiconfessional character of the Vojvodina region. They also point to the various social and political mechanisms through which certain layers of this heritage and its physical spaces are neglected. While public discourse is still occupied with the single and too narrow interpretative framework, there are a lot of different narrations about the Fortress that are either partially present in the public sphere or actively silenced and completely absent from it. This results in the physical neglect and the decay of a significant part of the Fortress and its surrounding as well as their discursive emptiness. In such conditions of social and cultural vacuum, new neoliberal models of culture – led urban development access to this space as an "empty" space that needs to be corrected by neoliberal intervention. In the end of the paper, we discuss the (in) significance of the concept of post-socialist city today, especially for cities in the Western Balkans, which are going through aggressive neoliberalization.

Keywords

postsocialist city, urban heritage, neoliberalism, culture-led urban development, Petrovaradin Fortress

Nuisance or economic salvation - the role of new urban tourism in today's Berlin

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Abstract

After the fall of the wall, Berlin has reinvented itself as an international hub for the creative class, for politics, for anything “media”-related. With its comparably low cost of living came the promise of a young, creative, buzzing environment that attracted new locals and “New Urban Tourists,” people who are visiting a place to feel as locals, to dive into a version of vacation that feels like everyday life. They are renting flats instead of hotel rooms to experience a home away from home. Until a few years ago Berlin was welcoming any, and all tourists with open arms. But this has changed. Berlin is experiencing a price hike in rents and costs of living. It is increasingly difficult for the lower and middle classes to find housing in the inner city. Today, many Berlin residents blame Airbnb for the housing shortage since it is more profitable to rent out an apartment in the short-term. Local political efforts seem not to take hold against the international corporation and its lobbying tactics. In our paper we discuss findings of an ongoing research project at TU Darmstadt and TU Berlin aimed at this phenomenon: (how) are neighborhoods changing due to tourism? Is Berlin losing its last rebellious, working-class neighborhoods to gentrified tourist housing? How are locals affected when surroundings are being transformed to cater to tourists? Is Berlin's heritage preserved, changed, destroyed? How can a global digital phenomenon such as the sharing economy be locally legislated? In light of theories on tourism and New Urban Tourism (Gotham 2005; Judd und Fairstein 1999; Pizam 2016; Urry 1990; Füller und Michel 2014) and post-socialist transformation of cities (Häußermann 1996), we want to make a case for Berlin as an example of how international appeal and local needs can collide on the level of affordable housing and the tourism industry. We are exploring the matter through media-analysis of newspaper articles, market analysis, and semi-structured interviews. Our interdisciplinary approach allows for a broad perspective on economic and social factors.

Keywords

new urban tourism, platform capitalism, quality of living, transforming neighbourhoods, interdisciplinary research

City Tourist Guide: from ideology tool to promotion of consumerism (example of Lviv)

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Abstract

The image of the city is the representation of its physical and social spaces as a product or a picture for an external observer or "consumer." In this case, the actors responsible for this representation (city government, business cluster, city residents, etc.) consider what is necessary to demonstrate to the public, in particular tourists, with a political, economic, or any other purpose. The text will use and verify ideas of the constructionism approach as interpreted by P. Berger and T. Luckmann. The purpose of this text is to describe the transformations of the urban image during two periods in the history of Lviv: at the end of Soviet domination in the city (1989-1990) and the period of independent Ukraine (1991- ...). To track these changes, quantitative-qualitative content analysis and a discourse analysis of tourist guides of the two mentioned periods (16 guides were analyzed: 7 from the Soviet period, 9 of independent Ukraine) were conducted. As a result, we can conclude that Soviet-era guides positioned Lviv as primarily an industrial city or a "city of revolutionary glory." And in the second place, objects of cultural and artistic heritage predominate quantitatively. The Soviet guides contain a powerful ideological component and can serve as a sort of propaganda material. Guidebooks of Lviv in the period of independent Ukraine are ideologically unbiased, somehow commercialized. The more modern the guide is, then it becomes more tourist-oriented. We see that along with the architectural wonders of the city, an entertaining component became widely represented.

Keywords

urban image, consumerism, commercialisation, tourism, Lviv

Urban identity struggles in post-socialist Bosnia and Herzegovina: the case of civil society-led transformation of the open public space in Banja Luka

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Abstract

Preserving place identity has always represented the main concern of urban planning practice as well as one of the main challenges in the process of urban transformation. This has been particularly evident with respect to both preservation and transformation of open public spaces and their social, cultural and architectural values that have altogether significantly and persistently contributed to the process of establishing cultural identity of a community. Open public spaces, on the one hand, constantly provide city dwellers with an opportunity to develop and nurture their sense of place attachment and belonging to a community by engaging themselves in a variety of social activities. On the other hand, public spaces keep providing city inhabitants with an opportunity to engage themselves in different physical activities and improve their overall well-being. Thus, public spaces are essential in establishing good-quality urban life as well as the formation of both emotional and physical place attachment. During the post-socialist urban transformation, open public spaces in cities across Bosnia and Herzegovina became neglected and out of sight of interest of planning practitioners, losing their identity, role and significance in cities, finally affecting people's perception of place attachment. This is first and foremost due to the urban development of cities being linked to neither a citywide vision nor a programme but rather exercised in the form of partial area plans, which first and foremost serve for the purpose of issuing new development permits for the private construction sector. Under these new circumstances of the "piecemeal" type of urban expansion and an explosion of a wide variety of profit-oriented objects, urban planning practitioners in the city of Banja Luka spend most of their time on the amendments of neighbourhood-scale proposals without paying much attention to the actual needs of the local population. With planners turning a blind eye on open public spaces and appeals of locals, preserving and nurturing place identity has never been more difficult. This paper describes the exceptional case of transformation of open public space in the neighbourhood of Borik in Banja Luka, juxtaposing the official urban planning practice treatment of place identity with the extraordinary and successful example of community participation and citizen-driven urban transformation initiative.

Keywords

post-socialist urban transformation, public spaces, place identity, community participation, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Contentious Mobility Governance: Mobility as an Entry Point to Understanding Urban Governance in Post-Soviet Cities

The statement that mobility 'is the predominant means by which one engages with the modern world' (Adey 2010) is especially true for the urban environment. The post-Soviet city is no exception in this regard, inhibiting layers of 'modern worlds' in heterogeneous transport infrastructure assemblages and at the same time mirroring the multifaceted challenges and disruptions and developments during the last three decades. At large, often due to multiple and overlapping reasons – lack of public transport provisioning, ever increasing motorization levels, poor vehicle maintenance and technical quality assurance – mobility practices in post-soviet settings are by a majority perceived as inadequate, challenging and time consuming. Despite the socio-spatial importance of urban mobility governance and bottom-up mobility practices, research on urban mobility has so far received marginal and at best sporadic attention in understanding the multifaceted trajectory of post-soviet transformations.

Building upon the conviction that urban mobility is best understood as a 'politicised armature' and a 'potential venue of new articulations of politics' (Jensen 2009), the session will be exploring conflicting considerations of stakeholders in shaping urban mobility governance. Although post-soviet mobility governance revealed more about non-governance practices of municipal and national authorities rather than about master plans and long-term strategies – even more so against the backdrop of Soviet-era investments into public transport systems – recent efforts to change the urban transport assemblage serve as an important entry point to understand how urban politics play out in post-soviet cities.

Therefore, we will touch upon transport modernisation endeavours, aiming at drawing public legitimacy and enthusiastically trying to approximate what is imagined as "European" urban transport. On the other hand, road construction and widening is still widespread, coupled with lack of effort in regulating private taxi sector, private car inspection and unruly parking practices – often to the detriment of marginalised groups. Bringing in empirical evidence of significant urban struggles with their mobility regimes applied in very different locations and under various preconditioning obstacles, the session aims to map the major contentious point of post-Soviet urban mobility governance, and identify future research agendas in this direction.

Study of everyday urban mobility practices executed on a fixed gear or road racing bike in the city

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Abstract

This paper investigates urban mobility practices of people on fixed gear or road racing bikes which are used in the city for everyday trips and commutes. Rising number of inhabitants in our cities come hand in hand with rising number of cars which move and are parked in cities. This culture of automobility and car dependency results in the inability to perceive the city differently but through the front window of a car (Urry, 2006). This phenomenon is even more noticeable in the cities which undergone post-communist transformation such as Prague. The post-communist development usually massively focused on land development in the urban hinterland and urban cores increasing traffic congestion (Sykora, Bouzarovski, 2012). Process of suburbanization, seen as non-sustainable, overshadowed attention on development of sustainable forms of transportation. In the study, I focus on people who ride a fixed gear or a road racing bike and by means of this urban shared practice they demonstrate their attitude to the current state of the city, and generally, to the society. Those individuals are conscious rebels of contemporary cities. Their “right to the city” is negotiated in the streets everyday even though their position is peripheral and outnumbered by cars. They are self-marginalized fighters in The Contested City (Low, 1996). The main goal of the study is to discover how they construct and live their everyday social space, who they are and what is the importance of the bicycle for them. Methodologically, besides semi-structured interviews, I am applying a method of visual ethnography, specifically “ride-along” perspective (Spinney, 2011; Vannini, 2017). The method is visually appealing because it can capture the moment when it happens.

Keywords

bike, mobility, everydayness

Immobility and challenges of modernization: car parking in Warsaw.

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Abstract

My presentation is based on the ongoing research on car parking practices in European cities. The underlying argument is that immobility is as important as mobility in understanding how urban space is controlled and what are the consequences of variegated production of infrastructure in a post-socialist context. Analysing car parking helps to shed light on political processes of modernization and trace some of its reinterpretations and applications.

I want to present a case of Warsaw, where issues related to parking are particularly acute. Organization of mobility in that city is characterized by a split character – major road-building investments, exceptionally high number of cars and huge daily inflow of vehicles from around the county contrast with ostensible attempts to create liveable urban spaces and promote environmental sustainability. The tension is fuelled by essentially mixed ownership of space, divided by different public and private actors who have often conflicting interests. As a result, the so-called “parking problem” is highly contentious and engages people both on everyday and administrative level. It has been one of the major topics in municipal elections in October 2018 and constantly figures in a struggle between politicians, activists and regular citizens.

In my presentation I will recall and analyse these discussions in order to show the complicated issue of car parking as something that goes beyond common visions of urban development and “catching up with the West”. Promoting individual automobility produces problems with immobility which cannot be ignored in the long run. The case of parking shows that modernization brings adverse effects that become entangled in conflicts over its very nature. In this situation, urban governance must address the question of different visions of modernity, rather than follow a seemingly preordained path to (imaginary) progress. Therefore, immobility is a highly political area related to the essence of post-socialist condition.

Keywords

parking, immobility, modernization, urban politics

Governing post-socialist mobilities. A mobility justice lens.

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Abstract

While there has been an onset of mobilities' turn in social sciences, there is still a need to expand attention on justice as well as regional scope of mobilities. This paper shows that the answer to both of these challenges rests on considerations of post-socialism. Thus, the paper does not just aim to expand the geographical scope of mobility research but also starts to think on mobility justice as crucially about post-socialism. Drawing inspiration from the emerging work on "mobility justice" (Cook and Butz, 2016; Sheller, 2018) the paper investigates substantial connections between post-socialism and justice. Not only is mobility/immobility controversial in terms of justice, but so is post-socialism.

In working towards the conceptual argument, the paper draws empirically on two cases: the work on the conditions of transport workers in Caucasian and Central Asian cities, highlighting workers' rights and the politics of automobility in the context of sustainable mobilities in Tallinn, Estonia. The two cases highlight different elements of mobility justice as well as diverse conditions of post-socialism, thus allowing to see the intersection of mobility, justice and conceptualisation of post-socialism, offering eventually a new perspective to theorising from 'off the map'.

Keywords

mobility, justice, post-socialism

Marshrutka 2.0 – How Yandex Taksi fundamentally shifts the post-soviet transport assemblages in contemporary Russian cities

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Abstract

In June 2017 the on-demand ride sharing companies Uber and YandexTaksi announced their decision to merge the two companies into one taxi provider under the leadership of YandexTaksi in Russia and five additional neighbouring markets (Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Armenia, and Belarus). Since then, Yandex Taksi has taken over the Post-Soviet taxi market with 36 million registered application users and is most probably going to further transform the targeted urban mobility settings in the near future.

While the Post-Soviet urban transport policy of the last decades has in many places been characterised by little ambition and chronic underfunding, the fast development and implementation of on-demand ride sharing applications has triggered a major transformation in the urban transport assemblages of Russian cities. Apart from the dramatically changed taxi market, public transport in general and private transport companies such as marshrutka providers have also been affected. While the Russian Duma is currently discussing legal changes to regulate the driver's level of employment in the on-demand taxi market, the local marshrutka markets are facing an increasingly existential competition from the fancy web-aggregator from Moscow, which might threaten their existence. It seems as if YandexTaxi is breaking down a marshrutka service; local politicians have been claiming to formalise, domesticate or simply shutdown already for decades but without success. This, however, might be good news for app users but puts at a disadvantage the taxi drivers as well as major parts of the population that cannot afford raising fares – having to fall back to an in-many-places-still insufficient state-led public transport supply. In this paper I will provide an overview over the competitive framework that has been established between marshrutkas and on-demand taxi operators. Based on empirical insights from Russia, I will then discuss the far-reaching effects of such a disruptive new player in post-soviet urban transport assemblages.

Keywords

marshrutka, taxi, urban mobility, Russian cities

[illegible]

SESSION CHAIRS

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Dr. Vittoria Capresi is senior researcher and a Principal Investigator of the International European Research Project MODSCAPES - Modern Reinvention of the Rural Landscapes, a fully granted HERA project (2016-19). From 2011 until 2014 she was appointed as Associate Professor in History of Architecture and Urban Design at the German University in Cairo - GUC. In 2011 she funded "baladilab", a spin-off project associated to the GUC, to work with students to discover and activate the hidden potentials of urban surroundings, linking the everyday users with the built heritage.

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Dr. Emily Bereskin is a postdoctoral fellow in HABITER Study Center, currently working as a researcher for the International European Research Project MODSCAPES - Modern Reinvention of the Rural Landscapes, a fully granted HERA project (2016-19) in conjunction with the Habitat Unit of the Technische Universität Berlin (Habitat Unit). Her work focuses on the sociological and political examination of architecture and landscape; specific research interests include heritage and touristification processes, spatial contestation, and territory and conflict studies.

“There is a need to restore services and grocery stores in our countryside...”: discourse on rural peripheralisation in Czechia against the background of rural socio-economic development

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Abstract

In recent years, a discourse on rural peripheralisation emerged in Czechia, emphasizing the loss of residential attractiveness, economic activity and human capital in rural areas. The aim of the paper is to grasp important elements of this discourse and to reveal the contradictions between the discourse and existing statistical evidence of rural development trends. While the peripheralisation discourse presents the countryside as a place endangered by growing spatial disparities, available socio-economic indicators show much more differentiated development and document population profits in the majority of rural areas. Rural peripheralisation is among the well-known and repeatedly described aspects of the post-socialist transition. In many Central and Eastern European countries, rural areas have been considered the loser of transformation processes and strong polarization trends in favour of metropolises have been detected. Compared to that, in Czechia neither a substantial rural decline, nor an important discourse on rural peripheralisation emerged at the beginning of the transition. Surprisingly, more than two decades later, aspects of rural peripheralisation came up as an important part of expert discourse on rural development. In the paper I am describing the specific features of this discourse and its role in shaping rural policy. I show that the peripheralisation discourse strongly emphasizes the responsibility of the state for the situation in rural communities and links the existence of locally oriented place-based services and amenities with rural quality of life. At the same time, I draw attention to the contradiction between the arguments of this discourse and the existing statistical evidence of the contemporary rural situation.

Keywords

rural, discourse, peripheralisation, socio-economic development, Czechia

Collapse of a Soviet Estonian Kolkhoz: cowboy capitalism and redistribution of land and wealth

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Abstract

After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 most of the assets (buildings, machinery, animals) of the collective farms in Estonia were privatised at very low prices or just taken apart by opportunists. Some of the kolkhozes and sovkhoses continued for some time as agricultural cooperatives, but by mid-1990s most of them had announced bankruptcy.

At the same time, in 1991, a new land reform in Estonia was initiated with the goal to re-establish the pre-war landownership relations as much as possible. As a result, the 1990s were extremely difficult times in Estonian agriculture and rural economy in general – the collective economy system did not function anymore, and the new landowners did not yet have enough skills to turn their land productive.

The paper looks at some of the examples in detail what happened to the Soviet Estonian kolkhoz during the first half of the 1990s. What happened to the lands and assets of collective farms? What was the impact and the results of the land reform to the life in rural areas?

Keywords

collective farms, privatization, land reform, rural areas, Estonia

Spatial patterns of rural population dynamics during the transition: a case study of Tyumen

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Abstract

Growing economic inequality between metropolises and rural areas in Europe leads to a migration of young people and subsequently, demographic imbalance. Extreme cases of polarization can be found in post-socialist Russia. A recent study there showed that peripheral regions were losing up to 3% of their rural population annually. The general pattern is that the nearer the village is to a large city, the lesser its population decline. The current picture of rural depopulation is in contrast to the migration patterns of early 1990s, when large centers were losing population, while many of small towns and rural settlements grew. These population dynamics are usually explained in terms of urban economics: an industrial decline during the first years of transition led to out-migration of urban residents, but with the subsequent growth of new urban economies, the migration flows reversed. However, a city-centered explanation obscures the fact that rural areas have also been deeply transformed during the transition, and the changes in rural economy could affect both patterns of rural out-migration and the destination choice of industrial refugees. Adopting the idea of peripheralization as a social process, this paper aims to identify the driving forces of rural population dynamics in Russia from 1990 to 2010. Using the example of Tyumen Oblast, it starts by comparing spatial patterns of rural population change during the early (1990s) and late (2000s) transition periods. It continues by examining the role that structural changes in agriculture played in determining these patterns. The results showed, that over time key factors of population dynamics were changing. The withdrawal of state from economic regulation put territories with better natural and infrastructural conditions in a more advantageous position. However since early 2000s agricultural potential was no longer important for population dynamics, while areas of rural population growth shrunk to metro areas.

Keywords

peripheralization, rural depopulation, agricultural development, Western Siberia

Memorialisation of authentic historical localities, People's Liberation Struggle in non-urban areas

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Abstract

The process of institutional confirmation both of the cultural-historical and artistic value of the monuments and memorials dedicated to the People's Liberation Struggle in socialist Yugoslavia began in the mid-1950s. Although monuments of different scale and quality in individual locations, both within and outside of urban areas, started to appear immediately after the end of WWII, the marking of places where important battles, different organizational activities and political meetings took place preceded the actual plans for memorialization especially in infrastructurally undeveloped and remote areas. Thus, historical sites important to the People's Liberation Struggle were marked in vast parts of economically underdeveloped areas with dense forests. Local governments, as well as republic and federal ones, soon recognized that their memorialization presents an opportunity for both economic revitalization through forming of larger memorial areas where tourism, as well as educational and cultural activities for promoting achievements of the People's Liberation Struggle could develop. Memorialization and management of these large natural areas, as well as protection of cultural and natural heritage, the erection of new memorials and tourism development occurred through the development of increasingly complex spatial plans.

This paper will outline the introduction and development of different forms of memorialization and formal means of protection of large natural areas where important episodes from the People's Liberation Struggle took place – natural parks, authentic historical localities, memorial areas etc., and suggest ways in which they shaped planning strategies in non-urban areas, since the introduction of planning tools in the design and setup of memorials represented not only a leap in conceiving the memorial typology and politics of memory, but also a change in the general understanding of programming of space, resources and their rational use.

Keywords

heritage, planning, non urban areas, nature protection

[illegible]

New Patterns of Land Appropriation in Post-socialist Space

Since the advent of neoliberal transition, post-socialist space became a disputed territory where new landed oligarchy, foreign interests, old capital and citizens aligned together either to allow or to resist patterns of land appropriation. Recent decades of economic and political crises have witnessed new waves of urban and rural land acquisitions, with new land codes emerging and the opening-up of land reserves to local and foreign investors. One feature, however, remains familiar — common people are still deprived of their land, now in the hands of the few.

Land is foremost a political category, it is a finite resource that can be appropriated, distributed, and owned. Throughout the history of civil society, acquisition of land has been associated with accumulation of power. In Russia, for example, land appropriation is shaped by multiple historical forces and legacies of collective land ownership and fictitious private property, centralized state oppression and the autonomy of the people. Against this background we see the post-socialist space as a unique avenue to contest predominant theoretical assumptions about the triad of land, capital, and power. The proposed session aims to put a start to this scholarly task.

Spatialities of land enclosure in the Russian imperial and socialist periphery

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Abstract

Since the onset of Stolypin land reforms of 1906, the Russian urban periphery became a center of territorial struggle, where complex alliances and strategies, beyond the exclusive control of the state, came together to carry out or resist land appropriation and privatization. Using original documentation of Russian imperial and socialist land deals obtained from the federal and municipal archives, I explore how the coalitions of landed nobility, land surveyors, landless villagers, and new proprietors used enclosure as a conduit for extra-legal governance, accumulation of capital, or, in contrary, as a means of resistance. Through critical discourse analysis, I illustrate how the Russian state and territories in the periphery were dialectically co-produced not only through institutional manipulations, but also through political and public discourses. This comparative theoretical analysis reexamines some predominant assumptions about the land, territory, and crisis triad in Russia by positioning the rural politics of the late imperial and socialist periods within the global context of capitalist land enclosure. Moreover, it brings a territorial dimension into the Russian agrarian scholarship. At the same time, by focusing on the historical reading of 'territory' and 'property' from a Russian perspective, this study introduces a more nuanced alternative to the traditional political geographic discourse often found in Eurocentric interpretations.

Keywords

land, enclosure, private property, territorialization, Russia

The commons in the post socialist city – a Western Balkan case study

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Abstract

The theme 'urban commons' receives a lot of (scholarly) attention. A miscellany of approaches looks at urban commons, from an institutionalist approach of governing the commons to a 'third way' - an 'anti-capitalist' view moving beyond state and market. Urban commons like public spaces differ from 'traditional commons'; they are considered more of indirect value and generally less as common-pool resources (like forests, grazing areas). In the city, the commons is an inherently relational phenomenon, where (social) value is created through interaction. Public spaces as urban commons, in their free accessibility, bear the potential for practices of commoning founded in a community process. Urban commons have hardly (if at all) been related to the post-socialist Balkan city, though collective action and ownership was strongly proclaimed by these countries before the fall of the Berlin Wall. Practices (experiences, social capital, governance) of urban commons in post-socialist cities differ from those in Western cities, due to at least 3 reasons: i) after 1990/91 private sector-led urban development has dominated; ii) government authorities and urban institutions are searching for new roles and responsibilities, resulting in ambiguous urban spaces exposed to neglect or commercialization; iii) communities have strong and negative memories of forced collective action. In this paper, we review theory on [new] commons and give a contextualization of urban commons in post-socialist cities. Then, follow results of a study conducted in two Western Balkan capitals: Podgorica and Tirana. A number of public spaces typologies (squares / public spaces of different size and status) are analyzed in both cities from the perspective of design principles of robust commons. The mixed methods used in the investigation and analysis deal with the common resource, the institutions, and the community. The study concludes with suggestions for potential handling of the commons studied. The paper will reflect on the potential of the concept of urban commons for post-socialist cities.

Keywords

urban commons, public space, design principles, post-socialist cities

Legitimacy of illegal: the growth of socialist and post socialist urban fringe in Belgrade, Serbia

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Abstract

The paper presents the significance and legitimacy of the illegal urban fringe growth during the late Socialist and post-Socialist periods in Serbia and Belgrade. The dynamic urbanization processes in Serbia in Socialist and post-Socialist period, affected both physical and structural changes in cities and brought changes within and outside the legal planning framework. The spatial development of big Socialist cities, as it is well known, was marked by mass collective housing, formed in mega blocks in new satellite settlements. As opposed to it and out of the formal urban planning, many illegal, mostly residential areas have grown over a period of almost 50 years. Although having some common characteristic with illegal settlements around the world, Serbian illegal and informal settlements had quite a different genesis. While the dynamics of illegal growth during Socialism in Serbia was marked by the slower pace and completely unrecognized, the informal urbanization in post-Socialist South-East Europe grew rapidly and shaped the peri-urban landscape (Hamilton, Dimitrovska Andrews & Pichler-Milanovic, 2005). Serbia, similar to the other Western Balkan countries, experienced a turbulent period of economic, societal and political transition. It is still facing problems related to limited institutional capacities for planning and development and low levels of planning implementation (Huchzermeyer & Karam, 2006; Tsenkova, 2011). Furthermore, the country deals with new economic order and specific societal settings and segregation. The paper enlightens the influence of the political, economic and societal context in Socialist and post-Socialist periods to the forming and constant growing of illegal settlements. It also draws attention to the effects they produce on land use, environment and overall quality of life in Serbia and Belgrade. In conclusion, the paper tends to offer the paths for feasible solutions in the context of integrative urban planning.

Keywords

illegal settlements, post-socialist, transition, peri-urban growth

Second home mobility: informal seasonal settlements as a socialist heritage and a part of modern Moscow agglomeration

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Abstract

Informal seasonal settlements firstly appeared in the Moscow Region in the 19th century and during the last 200 years, changed their main function many times: from an ecological function, when city dwellers spent summer at their second homes and just enjoyed the clean environment to an economical function, when they used their land plots to grow plants in times of crisis. Post-war Soviet food policies predetermined the widespread of garden plots in the Moscow Region and the gradual reduction of building constraints on these plots led to modern mobility, when a significant part of the Moscow population have two residences: apartment in the city and house in suburbs. Evolution of informal seasonal settlements led to an appearance of various forms of second homes which have different perspectives. Well-appointed and conveniently located dachas can be used as a permanent residence akin to western suburbs. Garden plots with cheap houses located near railway stations attract external migrants. In remote areas, some landowners leave their plots and some tend to enlarge them up to 1 ha and more. Nowadays informal seasonal settlements are the focus of authorities at various levels. New federal law is intended to regulate possible legal forms of seasonal settlement organization. The Moscow administration in the mayoral election gave the opportunity to vote at mobile polling stations located in suburban areas. Local authorities have implemented programmes to repair roads in seasonal settlements. These actions can mean that authorities are seeking for ways of formalizing these settlements up to giving them special status of rural-urban settlements.

Keywords

second home, allotment garden, suburbanization, Moscow Region

Revitalization of industrial zones of Moscow

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Abstract

The industrial zones of Moscow are called «rusty belt», they amounted to 17% of the city's territory by 2014. The problem of revitalization of industrial zones has become particularly relevant for Moscow after the removal of dozens of industrial enterprises outside the city. There are three stages in this process. The first stage (the second half of 1990s) was characterized by monofunctional redevelopment of industrial sites under the business centers (Golutvinskaya manufactory). New owners and investors were interested in the territory, but not in the historical buildings. In the 2000s - the second stage - the new approach consisted of the desire to preserve the historical architecture through a complete re-profiling of industrial facilities, creating zones of creative economy. There are two variants of such development. The first was the surrender of the updated premises to representatives of the creative industries: design, architectural bureaus and studios, show-rooms, etc. (factories «Red rose», «Red October»). The second was the monoprofile using of the territory as a cultural center, the basis of which is a museum and exhibition space (the Center of Modern Art «Winery»). The third stage (the 2010s) was characterized by the transition from monofunctional to multifunctional development of industrial zones, as well as the presence of a concept uniting all objects (the factories «Crystal», «Bolshevik»). Industrial zones today are the main reserve for construction in the old borders of Moscow. They have great potential for the development and set the vector of development throughout the city.

Keywords

industrial zones, revitalization, historical buildings, creative economy, Moscow

Innovating the Post-socialist City: Challenging Legacy. Emerging Fears?

The main topic of the session addresses the relationship between post-socialist cities and urban innovativeness, exposed to both internal and external transitional processes which have occurred since 1989. The legacy of socialism and the Cold War, the drastic socio-economic changes and a number of emerging global issues (e.g. aging population, global warming, economic turbulences, fast-shifting political landscapes and increased cross-border mobility) have created an unstable urban setting, overwhelmed by multiplying fears, environmental risks, contextual uncertainties and increasing global anxiety. Consequently, De Cauter's six strata of New Fear (2004) - demographic fear, dromophobia, economic fear, xenophobia, agoraphobia/political fear and the fear of terrorism, constantly influence human (re)actions in/on urban space, challenging the openness of urban systems while simultaneously shaping new 'shelters' in a form of self-sufficient cocoons.

However, all these threats and problems often trigger innovative solutions and models of urban practices, manifested in urban space as 'in-between' urban ecologies. The post-socialist cities, due to their specificities of socio-economic, political and historical legacy, represent a challenging environment which generates urban fears, while the innovativeness of urban practices frequently follows a very unique path.

The session welcomes case-studies or theoretical contributions which analyze and evaluate both positive and negative examples of new urban practices, spatial typologies, unconventional approaches and their amalgamation with urban hardware and software of post-socialist cities, driven by their geo-political role, governmental framework, cultural and historical experiences, formal and informal processes and anticipated future. Considering the trends and imperatives of recent urban paradigms (sustainable transitions, resilience, green economy, social equity etc.), as well as the ideas of an "ecological/environmental citizenship" (Van Steenberg B., 1994) and the "green state" (Eckersley, 2004), the presented cases should consider the effects of specific social, technological and/or spatial responses which tend to provide a symbiosis of environmental values, political rights and obligations.

SESSION CHAIRS

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Doc. Soc.Sc. Tuula Teräväinen is sociologist specialized into sociological science and technology studies and environmental sociology. She currently works at the Department of Geographical and Historical Studies / Environmental Policy at the University of Eastern Finland (UEF). Her research focuses on the politics and governance of new technologies and sustainable innovations, green economy and growth, socio-technical transitions and local conflicts, negotiations and democracies in local, national, regional (Nordic/EU/Andean Amazon) and global contexts.

Spatial multiplicities and urban conflicts: a proposal of critical cartography of the condition of urban un-protection in the Metropolitan Region of Belo Horizonte (Brazil)

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Prof. Dr. Rita de Cássia Lucena Velloso, School of Architecture of the Federal University of Minas Gerais - NPGAU/UFMG

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Abstract

In the 1980s, an eminently urban Brazil with extreme social inequality was open to a representative democracy with new political parties inspired by the European social-democratic ideal of the nineteenth century. Plus new social movements, they claimed rights then included in the Constitution where a chapter on urban policy conditioned the right to property to fulfill the social functions of the city, regulated by the City Statute, after years of negotiation. Thus, municipalities acquired a set of innovative instruments of: urban intervention, direct popular participation and inclusion of people historically excluded from the right to the city. Despite an innovative urban policy and a federal pact with UN 2030 sustainable development agenda, apparently committed to the protection of life in the city, Brazilian political structures failed to represent minorities in general. In the last decades, Brazilian cities face increased violence, housing precariousness, and environmental vulnerabilities. It is assumed that the advancement of the neoliberal model organizing social life, whose central affects are fear and competition between individuals, imposes a condition of continuous un-protection that engenders the fear of difference, of immigration, of dispossession of property and of privileges of gender and race. Recent electoral results point to reemergence of conservative forces and serious retractions: criminalization of social movements, and depoliticization of public spaces. It is assumed that the un-protection takes on a paternalistic and reactionary character of anti-urban spatial and housing solutions adapted and submitted to ideas of social control. But their ability to engender conflicts and processes of socio-political resistance in the restoration and expansion of democratic pacts is also suggested. What is proposed, for now, is to know cartographically the Metropolitan Region of Belo Horizonte by its spatial multiplicities and urban conflicts supposedly enunciated by urban un-protection without losing sight of the role of instruments of urban politics.

Keywords

urban un-protection, urban conflicts, neoliberalism, (critical) cartography

Between the hammer and the anvil: transition architecture of postwar ex-Yugoslavia

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Abstract

Is war destruction the final act of “urbicide” – the killing of a city? If it is to be judged by the postwar reconstruction of Yugoslav cities, the only acceptable answer would be a resounding – no. Today the predominant sentiment among its citizens and scholars alike is that the violent conflict was just a trigger for the systematic devastation of socialist and modernist architectural heritage, the maltreatment of which continued as the default strategy for (re)creating national identities long after the war. Within the intense processes of post-conflict reconstruction, Yugoslav cities were drastically redefined and recalibrated to fit new political, social and economic realities. Multi-layered investigations into modalities in which architecture engaged with violence and ideology to produce a myriad of informal archetypes is possible through construction of a *histoire croisée* of the multiple architectural sources and histories. Set in the distinctive political and cultural context of a post-war and post-socialist Yugoslavia, this paper will tackle the complex processes of urban renewal in a harshly polarized society struggling to overcome the challenges of economic, cultural and ideological transitions. Special emphasis will be given to the dual, yet diminishing, role of architects as both active voices in a public discourse, and translators of socio-political forces into architectural form. This analysis will lead me to conclude that the post-conflict urban reconstructions in transition societies are often more sophisticated and more comprehensive forms of urbicide.

Keywords

former Yugoslavia, post-war reconstruction, post-socialist transition, *histoire croisée*, transurbicide

Local responses to urban shrinkage: the emergence of a comprehensive view in a former mining city Novoshakhtinsk, Southern Russia.

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Abstract

Population decline becomes the main trend in the demographic development of most Russian cities. Although in general, the depopulation issue is not in the focus of local policies, some municipalities and regions have come up with responses to the shrinkage's negative effects. However, those modest planning and policy responses to urban shrinkage emerging nowadays in Russia at different levels tend to be fragmented, simplifying cause-effects relationship and never consider shrinkage phenomenon as a complex multi-dimensional issue. At the same time, rare cases where the local policy is based on a more realistic and comprehensive view of urban decline, appear. The case of Novoshakhtinsk was discovered during the search for examples of “decline-oriented” planning (Dewar & Thomas, 2012) – planning with the assumption of future population decline and tendency to adopt a city's development to these new conditions. Novoshakhtinsk with the population of 108.8 thousand people is one of seven mining cities that form the conglomerate of the Eastern Donbass mining area in Southern Russia. After the dissolution of the USSR, all cities in the area faced a dramatic economic decline due to the fall of the coal-mining industry. The subsequent demographic crisis of the 90s exacerbated the situation. Cities of the Donbas area differently approached urban shrinkage. Novoshakhtinsk represents one of the rarest cases in modern Russia, where the urban shrinkage issue is addressed comprehensively, involving different aspects and scales of social, economic, political and spatial development. Using a mix of document analysis, field observation and open-ended interviews with local policy-makers and planners, the study aims to understand what drives the emergence of innovative strategic planning and policies in the shrinkage conditions, who are the actors of these transformations, and which opportunities exist for a shrinking city in the current socio-demographic and political situation in Russia.

Keywords

shrinking city, mining city, urban planning, urban policy, Russia

Sustainable functionalism, after neo-liberalism and socialism

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Abstract

In the early 1990s - a period which coincided with the publication of Agenda 21, a non-binding action plan of the United Nations for sustainable development - the idea of governance based on sustainability values was introduced. Nations adopted the framework guidelines for setting policies to reduce social inequality and environmental issues. However, due to the fact that today's economy is too much reliant on oil, governance based on neo-liberal principles is unable to deliver the required policy changes at a fast enough pace. In order to fill the gap, governments have decided to give more powers to cities through devolution processes. Creating sustainable cities nowadays is one of the biggest challenges of urban environments, the achievement of which requires not only greener products, but also requires people's engagement with regards to the adoption of behaviours aimed at less social and environmental impact. This paper reviews various governance ontologies and investigates the different methods that are being used for achieving sustainability goals. Through the review of various governance ontologies and the investigation of different methods that are being used for achieving sustainability goals, this paper attempts to explain the mechanism of sustainable governance and how different or similar it is to socialism or neo-liberalism. It concludes with the identification of areas for improvement in the sustainable urban governance of European cities.

Keywords

governance ontologies, sustainable governance, green cities

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SESSION CHAIRS

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Vladyslav Tyminskyi

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Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Stuttgart, Germany

M.Sc. Arch. Vladyslav Tyminskyi is an architect, researcher, a Ph.D. Candidate and consultant on strategic urban design and spatial planning. As a researcher, he is focused on strategic spatial planning and integrated urban development, urban policy transferring, alternative forms of governance in the context of contemporary urban development in Central Eastern Europe.

The democratization of urban planning? The political debate over Prague's "Metropolitan Plan"

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Abstract

My paper uses the ongoing debate about Prague's "Metropolitan Plan" to probe the role of municipal-level democracy in the transformation of urban planning in postcommunist East Central Europe. The broad trajectory of Prague's urban planning is representative of regional historical trends: urban planning institutions formed a highly developed and prestigious component of the communist-era state. In the 1990s, however, these institutions were radically undercut as remnants of the old regime, and as municipal politicians turned city development over to the invisible hand of the market. As Martin Horak (2007) has documented, these policy shifts yielded a real estate market in which frequent interventions by municipal politicians led to urban sprawl, mounting traffic problems, and political corruption. By the mid-2000s, the label "developer" had extremely negative associations for the voting public. The stage was set for a shake-out of municipal political elites and, potentially, for a reform coalition of civic initiatives, environmentalists, and architects to reclaim and reconceptualize urban planning.

Keywords

Prague, strategic urban planning, political parties, discourse, city politics, postcommunism

Strategic or strategic? Reaffirmation of socialist planning on the case of Belgrade

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Abstract

This paper examines the understanding of the term 'strategic' in spatial planning practice in the post-socialist country Serbia. This is a context which is characterised by the EU integration processes, ongoing transition to a market economy, but also strong path dependency. The first part will present a historical overview of transition from traditional rational planning model to more strategic planning approaches considering the main European and international influences. The second part focuses on a case study of General Urban Plan of Belgrade from 1972 and explores its procedural elements in relation to the 'strategic approach'. Here we focus on the plan preparation methodology which included strong participatory mechanisms, public competitions and other forms of deliberation, which are rarely considered as a binding component of the rational approach to planning in its purest sense. Finally, this paper discusses the commonalities and differences within General Urban Plan from 1972, contemporary city-level general urban planning documents in Belgrade and present local strategies of integrated urban development. The main aim of this paper is to re-evaluate the socialist legacy in relation to the use of different procedural elements of strategic planning in contemporary conditions.

Keywords

legacy, strategic, transition, path dependency, participation

New urban practices in Russia's periphery

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Abstract

In my dissertation, I am seeking to employ a common research frame upon uncommon case studies: that is, the global outreach of urban governance models and processes and institutionalization of urban regeneration in secondary Russian cities beyond the Urals. By doing so I wish to contribute to a better understanding of the broader, beyond post-socialism, notion and mechanisms associated with urban regeneration in a “glocal” era, through the study of its imposition or (re)emergence upon a specific and characteristically post-Soviet institutional, physical and geohistorical context. This study also touches upon the particular and ongoing discourse of knowledge transfer and circulation in the contemporary Russian city. The subject is the timeline and materialization of a number of projects implemented in two selected cities, both formerly secluded, in Siberia and the Russian Far East. A convergent parallel design method has been applied in the thesis. The empirical material that will be presented consists of information derived from (1) official documentation and media reports, (2) interviews, and (3) observations of physical urban spaces attributes during fieldwork. Preliminary findings point towards an oscillation between internationalization and inward development tendencies, as well as the fragile yet persistent role of systems of planning, institutions and administration, grounded practices, and inherited physical attributes. A systematization follows accordingly and helps illustrate structural patterns in space production and actors' interaction. One of the case studies will be presented in detail at the Urban Morphology Conference.

Keywords

urban regeneration, Siberia, actors, institutions, context, translation, transfer

The new urban strategies in designing and branding medium-size cities in Uzbekistan: cases of Chartak, Kagan and Yangiyuln

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Abstract

The urban transformations in post-socialist territories have been mostly affected by neoliberal development policies, marking the “victory” of capitalism over communism. As most of Eastern European and Eurasian countries, Uzbekistan chose to move towards a free market economy, but unlike many of them decided to go through the transition process slowly, which took 25 years under the deceased country leader, Karimov I.A. After 2016, the new stage of rapid transition had begun. The Government of Uzbekistan (GoU) began new major reforms, including in the urban development field. This led to the World Bank’s initiative to create a new integrated urban development strategy framework and implementation of new urban concepts in design and branding of pilot cities, Chartak, Kagan and Yangiyul, in order to boost their local economies.

Keywords

urban development strategies, urban design, urban branding, Uzbekistan

From state hubris to private hybrids. Tracing the Soviet urban legacy in Samarkand, Uzbekistan

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Abstract

An aerial view of Samarkand today reveals a striking contrast to the orderly layouts featured in several Soviet masterplans for the city since the 1930s. Except for two and half mikro-rayons and some more recent multistorey buildings, most of the urban area consists of private houses, many of them built in a visibly unplanned manner during Soviet rule. The communist urban legacy in Samarkand looks markedly different to the one described in most of Western scholarship on cities in Central Asia. Within this scholarship, a widespread fascination with Soviet mass housing, architecture and urban planning has arguably informed the selection of case studies and the underlying narratives, many of which revolve around the transformation of ethnically diverse, primarily Muslim cities into centrally planned Soviet cities. In turn, studies on post-Soviet cities have often produced deficiency narratives, for example of the breakdown of central infrastructures and their replacement with informal modes of service provision. Using the example of Samarkand, this paper aims at an analysis of the Soviet urban legacy in post-socialist Central Asia that is both critical towards common preconceptions of the socialist city and balanced in its sources. The underlying case study draws on a wide array of historical material, including contemporary Soviet literature on construction and architecture in Central Asia, archival sources from Tashkent and Samarkand, and in-depth oral history interviews with owners of houses and apartments. The paper shows that a scarcity of building material for Soviet housing projects, chaotic planning and conflicts of competence opened up considerable scope for individuals to (re-)build, repurpose, and renovate houses and apartments. It traces how ideas of socialist urban planning transformed on their way from the center to the periphery and from the top to the bottom of the Soviet administration; how they were appropriated by private individuals and translated into various hybrid arrangements that form much of the city's material legacies today. It documents, for example, the repurposing of space in prefabricated buildings, the gradual reconstruction of Soviet-style houses into traditional courtyard houses, or the amalgamation of local building techniques and state-built infrastructure networks in Uzbek mahallas. In Samarkand, as in other medium sized cities on the periphery of the former Soviet Union, these practices have left traces in the urban landscape which cannot be ignored in studies of their contemporary condition.

Keywords

Soviet urban legacy, housing, transformation, private hybrids, Uzbekistan

BOOK PROMOTIONS

Friday, 17.05.
15:00-15:15 /room 23/

Post-Socialist Urban Infrastructures, Routledge, 2019

Edited by Tauri Tuvikene, Wladimir Sgibnev, Carola S. Neugebauer

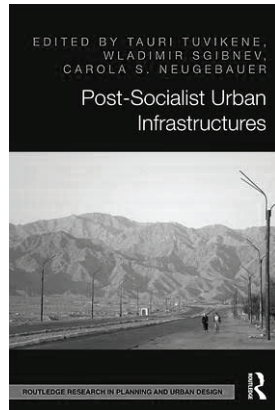
Saturday, 18.05.
15:00-15:15 /room 23/

Reinventing Eastern Europe: Imaginaries, Identities and Transformations, Transnational Press London, 2019

Edited by Evinç Dogan

Post-Socialist Urban Infrastructures (Rutledge, 2019)

Edited by Tauri Tuvikene, Wladimir Sgibnev, Carola S. Neugebauers



Post-Socialist Urban Infrastructures critically elaborates on often forgotten, but some of the most essential, aspects of contemporary urban life, namely infrastructures, and links them to a discussion of post-socialist transformation. As the skeletons of cities, infrastructures capture the ways in which urban environments are assembled and urban lives unfold. Focusing on post-socialist cities, marked by neoliberalisation, polarisation and hybridity, this book offers new and enriching perspectives on urban infrastructures by delving into the often marginalised aspects of urban research – transport, green spaces, and

water and heating provision. Featuring cases from West and East alike, the book covers examples from Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia, Germany, Russia, Georgia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Tajikistan and India. It provides original insights into the infrastructural back end of post-socialist cities for scholars, planners and activists interested in urban geography, cultural and social anthropology, and urban studies.

Tauri Tuvikene is an urban geographer at Tallinn University. His research deals with comparative urbanism in relation to post-socialist cities. He has published on conceptualizations of post-socialism, garage areas in (post-) Soviet urban spaces and urban (transport) infrastructures, including the politics of parking and walking in an urban environment.

Wladimir Sgibnev defended his PhD degree at Humboldt University's Central Asian studies department addressing the social production of space in urban Tajikistan. Currently, he is Senior Researcher at the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (Leipzig), working on urban processes in post-Soviet countries, particularly urban development and mobility in peripheralized locations..

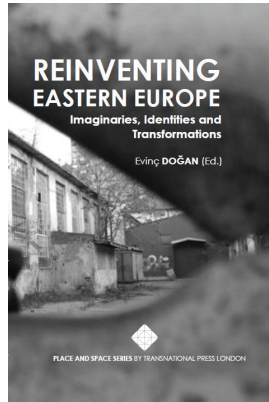
Carola S. Neugebauer studied landscape architecture and urban design in Germany and France. She is Associate Professor at the RWTH Aachen University. Taking up an interdisciplinary and comparative stance on cities, her research has been focused on urban transformations, planning and cultural heritage in Central Eastern Europe and the post-Soviet space.

Reinventing Eastern Europe: Imaginaries, Identities and Transformations (Transnational Press London, 2019)

Edited by Evinç Doğan

This edited collection brings together a wide range of topics that shed light on the social, cultural, economic, political and spatio-temporal changes influencing post-socialist cities of Eastern Europe. Different case studies are presented through papers that were presented at the Euroacademia International Conference series. Imaginaries, identities, and transformations represent three blocks for understanding the ways in which visual narratives, memory and identity, and the process of alterity shape the symbolic meanings articulated and inscribed upon post-socialist cities. As such, this book stimulates debate in order to provide alternative views on the dynamics, persistence and change broadly shaping mental mappings of Eastern Europe. The insights of the contributors here further the academic boundaries of the disciplines by stimulating new and important questions, and add a multifaceted richness to the existing knowledge. The volume offers an opportunity for scholars, activists, and practitioners to identify, discuss, and debate the multiple dimensions in which specific narratives of alterity making towards Eastern Europe preserve their salience today in re-furbished and re-fashioned manners.

Evinç Doğan is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Tourism at Akdeniz University, Turkey. She holds Ph.D. in Management and Development of Cultural Heritage from IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca, Italy. She received an MSc in History of Architecture from Istanbul Technical University and BA in Tourism Management from Bogazici University, Turkey. She has been a Visiting Research Fellow at Regent's University London, UK, Kadir Has University, Turkey, Bocconi University, Italy, and the University of Belgrade, Serbia. She is the author of *Image of Istanbul: Impact of ECoC 2010 Rebranding the City*. Her research interest includes place marketing, city branding, cultural heritage, tourism, urban sociology, and visual culture.





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urban
morphosis
lab

Urban Morphosis Lab is a research lab established in 2018, based at the Department of Architecture in TU Darmstadt and places its focus on investigating complexity and diversity in contemporary urban changes. The Lab aims to provide a research platform for investigating diverse phenomena in urban change, and fostering connections between international researchers with similar research foci, thereby enabling networks that can provide more comprehensive knowledge.

The lab is founded on the following objectives:

- to draw attention towards a deeper understanding of various manifestations of contemporary urban change in cities; in particular the causes, trajectories and implications;
- to establish an efficient exchange platform for researchers with similar interests;
- to offer international and inter-disciplinary approaches for researchers in the form of publications, exhibitions, conferences and forums;
- to highlight and promote creative and inspiring ideas and solutions

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Nebojša Camrag is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow based at the Faculty of Architecture, Technical University Darmstadt. His doctoral dissertation, awarded in 2014 as the best dissertation at the Faculty of Architecture, deals with the issues of identity and sense of place in contemporary cities, as a challenge that results from a range of global, economy-driven changes that cities are facing today. His current research interest is in the framework of interaction between globalization and built environment on the level of international comparison.

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Mirjana Ristic Trograncic is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at the Technical University Berlin. Her PhD thesis, which explored architectural and urban dimensions of inter-ethnic conflict in Sarajevo, won John Grice Award for Excellence in a PhD Thesis in Architecture at the University of Melbourne in 2012. Her postdoctoral research project focuses on the urban reconstruction of the former Cold War borderland between East and West Berlin.

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Anshika Suri is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow based at the Faculty of Architecture, Technical University Darmstadt. Her research interest lies in analysing urban infrastructures through a feminist perspective. Her doctoral dissertation was in line with understanding the urban sanitation challenge being faced by women in informal settlements in the cities of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Nairobi, Kenya. Her current research interests focus on intersectional analyses investigating the discourse within feminist urban planning and retrogressive metamorphosis in gender-inclusive urban planning.

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Office for Intercultural and International Affairs, City of Darmstadt



Ulyana Vynyarchuk is specialized in international cooperation and urban development. She completed her postgraduate Master's Degrees in urban development and economic development at TU Darmstadt and Tor Vergata University of Rome. Having served different roles at local governments and the EU Delegation to Ukraine, she has spent most of her career working on projects for and with the cities. Currently active at the Department for Intercultural and International Affairs of the city of Darmstadt. Her key interest areas include policy analysis and design as well as facilitation of international cooperation networks, good governance and urban transformation processes in the post-socialist cities.

DFG

DFG - German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) is the self-governing organisation for science and research in Germany. It serves all branches of science and the humanities. In organisational terms, the DFG is an association under private law. Its membership consists of German research universities, non-university research institutions, scientific associations and the Academies of Science and the Humanities. The DFG receives the large majority of its funds from the federal government and the states, which are represented in all grants committees. At the same time, the voting system and procedural regulations guarantee science-driven decisions.

STADTFORSCHUNG

Since 2004, the Interdisciplinary Urban Research (AG Stadtforschung) at the Technische Universität Darmstadt has been providing multidisciplinary perspectives in scientific research on urban issues. Around 30 professors of sociology, political science, history, philosophy, architecture, sports science, civil engineering, geosciences and economics worked together in the frames of this interdisciplinary urban research. AG Stadtforschung was funded by the LOEWE (State Initiative for the Development of Scientific and Economic Excellence) from 2008 to 2013, with the focus on "Eigenlogik der Städte" and has since become one of the most prominent centers of urban research in Germany. Since 2016, a focus is on the interdisciplinary research of critical infrastructures (KRITIS) within the framework of the DFG Research Training Group "Critical Infrastructures: Construction, Functional Crises and Protection in Cities". In addition, the graduate school URBANgrad offers doctoral candidates the opportunity to write their dissertation in the field of urban research. Since 2017, members of the AG Stadtforschung have been working together in various workshops on the subject of "Heritage and urban space". Further areas of work of the group are mobility, tourism, housing, water and energy supply, climate change, spatial networking, urban design and digitality.

In|ge|ni|um

Ingenium – Young Researchers at TU Darmstadt is the umbrella organisation for promoting early career researchers. Together with the departments, graduate schools, and research training groups, Ingenium promotes and qualifies early career researchers at TU Darmstadt for both academic and non-academic careers. Ingenium is guided by the basic understanding that the core of a doctoral- or a postdoc-phase is the individual, independent, and internationally recognised research. The supervisors in the departments, graduate schools and research training groups are the pillars of promoting early career researchers. Ingenium supports their work and assists early career researchers by providing a scope for development and independent research.

mu

MSc. “International Cooperation in Urban development - Mundus Urbano”. Mundus Urbano (MU) is an interdisciplinary advanced Master of Science program specialising in International Cooperation and Urban Development. Jointly offered by four European Institutions, the programme addresses the dynamic challenges faced throughout the world due to rapid urbanisation processes. MU provides innovative transdisciplinary solutions, including physical, managerial, economic, social and legal elements simultaneously. Students are provided with the highest quality academic resources and teaching staff, and afforded with insight into current development planning theories and practices, instigating them to propose architecturally, socially, economically and ecologically sustainable urban development solutions.



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In the focus of the Department of Urban and Spatial Sociology (Stadt- und Raumsoziologie) at the Faculty of History and Social Sciences, TU Darmstadt, is the complex interaction between society and (urban) spaces. In this frames, built and planned spaces are regarded as a social realm, negotiated by people, in which built (urban) spaces allow or restrict social action. The field of work of the Department focuses on the temporality and spatiality of the city, urban heritage and heritage industry, city and tourism, social and spatial inequalities in the city, mobility, smart cities, interim uses, living in transition, postcolonial spaces and city.



Ephemera Collective is a group of spatial designers and agents, based in Novi Sad, Serbia. In their creative practice, members of the Collective work with diverse pallet of methods and strategies borrowed from the other disciplines, aiming towards the profound understanding and production of space. The Collective ventures into: performance, theatre, storytelling, visual arts, phenomenology and social science, in order to detect tools and acquire skills necessary for the establishment of an 'architectural alternative'. By doing so through projects, workshops, texts and the educational practice members of the Collective create places for every purpose and of every scale – Places – The Protagonists. Following instructions from 'The Manifesto' written in the early days, the Collective looks for challenging and exciting ways of dealing with issues from the spatial design interdisciplinary field. Arguing that the spatial design's creative potentials are borderless, the collective's mission is to prove that.

SUPPORT TEAM



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Student at Mundus Urbano Master Program at TU Darmstadt



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